

# IROQUOIS THEATRE

CHICAGO, ILL.


NOVEMBER 23, 1903.











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# IROQUOIS THEATRE

RANDOLPH  
BETWEEN STATE AND  
DEARBORN STS.,  
CHICAGO

## Souvenir Programme



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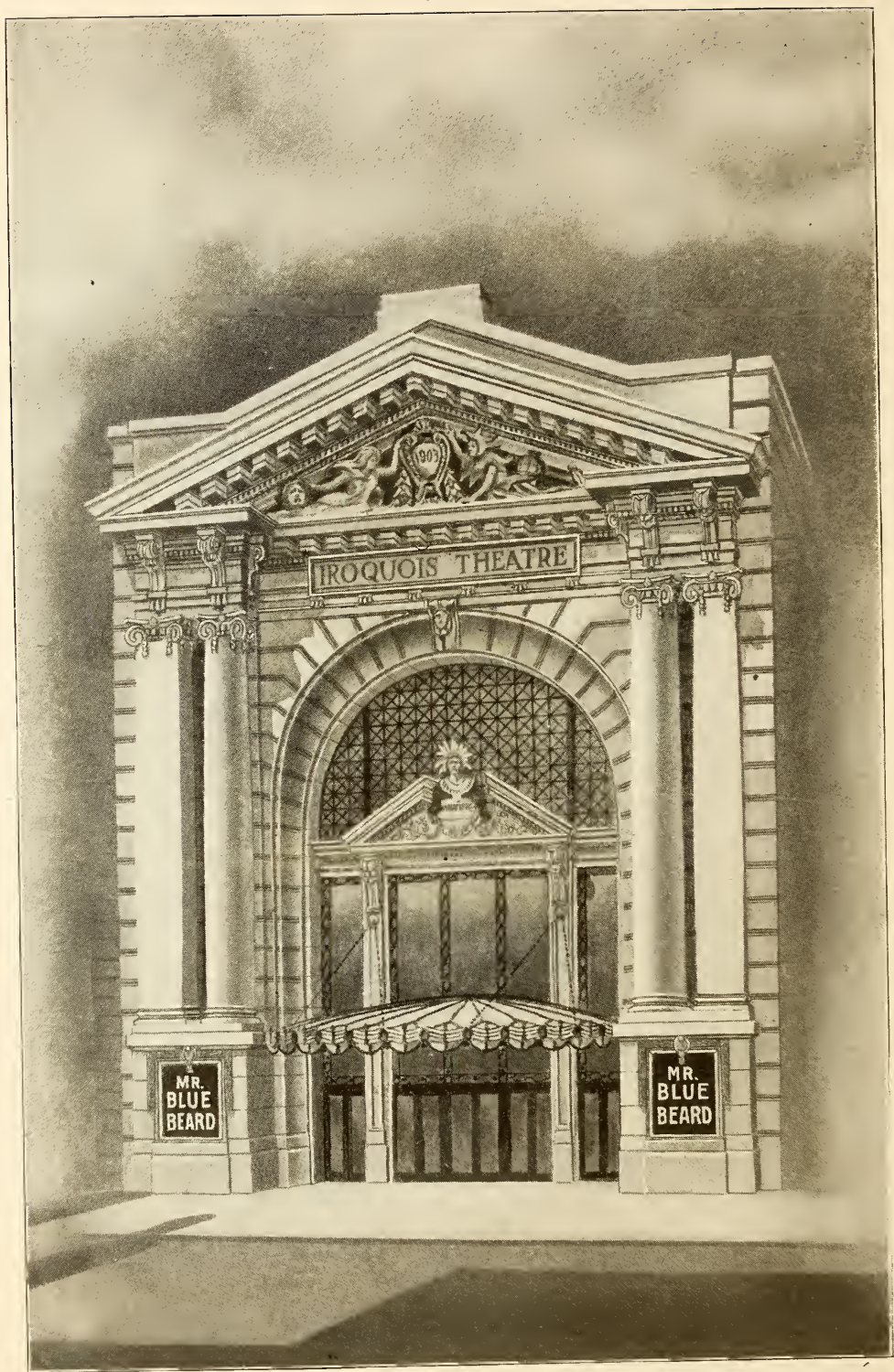
Dedicatory  
Performance  
NOVEMBER 23,  
.....1903.....

Opening  
Attraction  
KLAW & ERLANGER'S.  
MR. BLUE BEARD



*Iroquois Theatre, Chicago*





IROQUOIS THEATRE, RANDOLPH, BETWEEN STATE AND DEARBORN STREETS, CHICAGO. ILL.



# IROQUOIS THEATRE

RANDOLPH, BETWEEN STATE  
AND DEARBORN STREETS

CHICAGO



ERECTED AND OWNED BY  
**THE IROQUOIS THEATRE COMPANY**

DIRECTORS AND PROPRIETORS

WILLIAM J. DAVIS

HARRY J. POWERS

A. L. ERLANGER

J. FRED ZIMMERMAN

SAM'L F. NIXON

MARC KLAU

**WILLIAM J. DAVIS, HARRY J. POWERS, Resident Owners and Managers**

THE BUSINESS AND WORKING STAFF INCLUDES

**THOMAS J. NOONAN, Business Manager and Treasurer**

EDWARD J. DILLON }  
WILL J. DAVIS, JR. } BOX OFFICE

HELEN HAGAN, SECRETARY

J. E. G. RYAN, PRESS REPRESENTATIVE

ANTONIO FROSOLONO, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

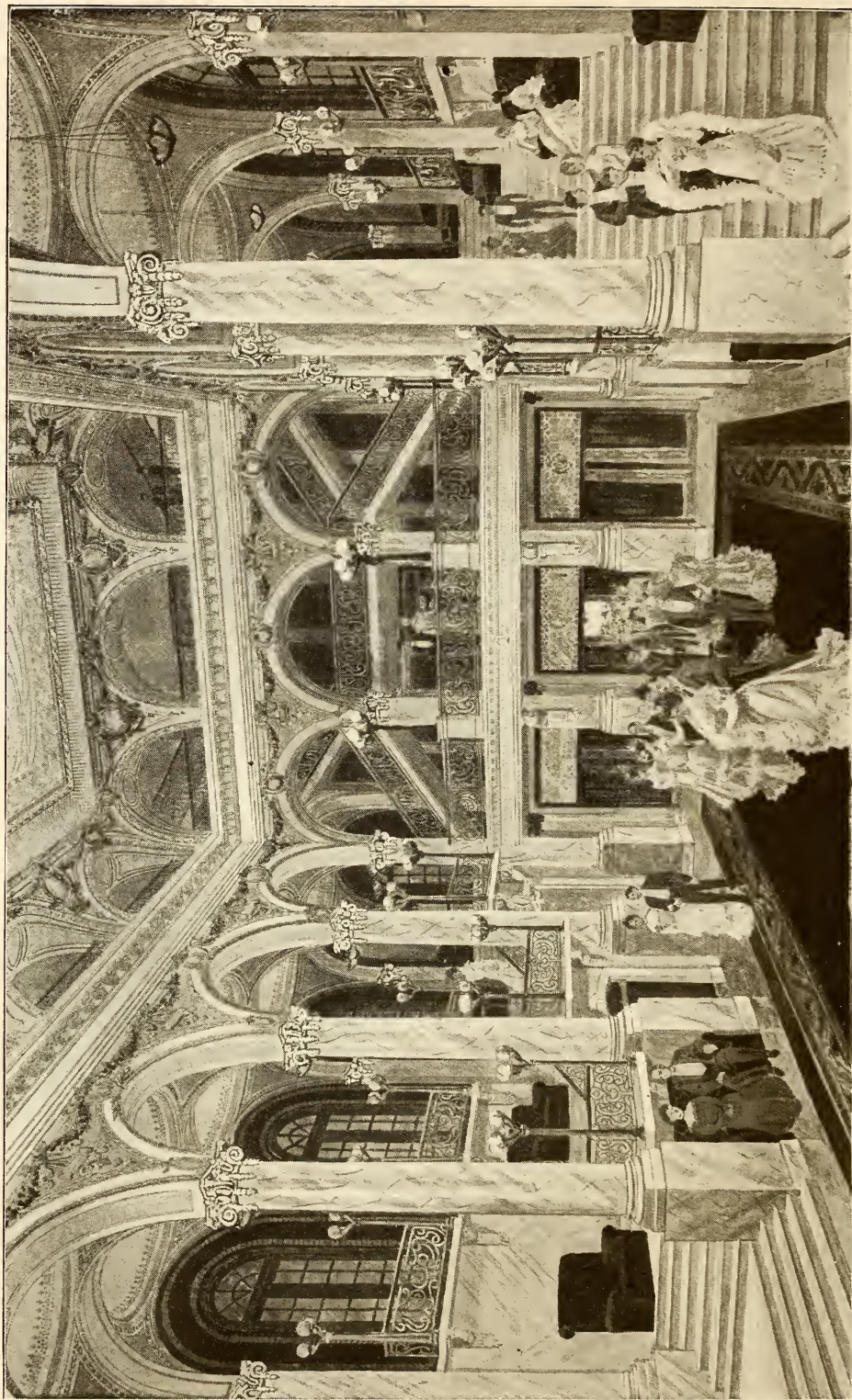
G. N. DUSENBERRY, DOORKEEPER

ED. J. CUMMINGS, MASTER CARPENTER

WALTER HUESTON, ELECTRICIAN

ROBERT MURRAY, ENGINEER





PROMENADE, FOYER, IROQUOIS THEATRE

# IROQUOIS THEATRE

Randolph, between State and Dearborn Sts., Chicago.

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**Beginning Monday, November 23, 1903.  
Every Evening, Including Sunday.  
Wednesday and Saturday Matinees.**

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**KLAW & ERLANGER present**  
**MR. BLUE BEARD**

**The Great Spectacular Entertainment from Theatre Royal,  
Drury Lane, London**

**By J. HICKORY WOOD and ARTHUR COLLINS**

**Adapted for the American Stage by JOHN J. McNALLY**

The Lyrics, unless otherwise indicated, by J. Cheever Goodwin.

Music, unless otherwise indicated, by Frederic Solomon.

Ballets by Ernest D'Auban.

Produced under Stage Direction of Herbert Gresham and Ned Wayburn.

Business Direction of Jos. Brooks. Edwin H. Price, Manager.

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## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES, MUSIC AND INCIDENTS**

### **ACT I.**

Scene 1—The Market Place on the Quay, near Bagdad. (Bruce Smith.)

Mustapha plots to separate Selim and Fatima and sell the beautiful Fatima to the monster Blue Beard. Blue Beard arrives; purchases slaves. Sister Anne falls in love with Blue Beard and spurns Irish Patshaw. Blue Beard seizes Fatima and takes her on board his yacht.

Opening Chorus—

a. "Come, Buy Our Luscious Fruits."

b. "Oriental Slaves Are We."

c. "We Come From Dalmatia."

d. Algerian Slave Song and Chorus.

aa. Grand Entrance Blue Beard's Retinue. Medley Ensemble.

bb. Song—"A Most Unpopular Potentate," Blue Beard and Chorus.

a. "Welcome Fatima."

Song—"I'm As Good As I Ought To Be," Blanche Adams.

Finale—"Then Away We Go."

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**POWERS' THEATRE THIS WEEK W. H. CRANE IN  
"THE SPENDERS"**

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**ILLINOIS THEATRE THIS WEEK CHAS. FROHMAN  
PRESENTS "ULYSSES"**



**CHICAGO**  
AND  
**ALTON**



**"THE ONLY WAY"**

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THE "ALTON" OCCUPIES  
THE SAME RELATIVE  
POSITION AMONG RAIL-  
WAYS AS THE IROQUOIS  
HOLDS AMONG THE  
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Scene 2—On Board Blue Beard's Yacht. (Bruce Smith.)

Fatima with Selim attempts to escape from Blue Beard's yacht, but is prevented. Selim jumps overboard.

Opening Chorus—"There's Nothing Like The Life We Sailors Lead."

Duet—Miss Rafter and Miss Adams.

"Beautiful World It Would Be." (Harry Von Tilzer.) Harry Gilfoil.

"I'm a Poor Unhappy Maid." (Jerome and Schwartz.) Eddie Foy.

Finale—"He's Gone."

Scene 3—The Isle of Ferns. (H. Emden.)

Fairy Queen appears to Selim, promises him her aid and the power of the Magic Fan to reunite him to his loved one and to protect them from evil.

Scene 4—The Land of Ferns. (H. Emden.)

Ballet of Ferns—Procession and waving of the Magic Fan, by the Fairies and Grand Corps de Ballet.

## ACT II.

Scene 1—The Castle Terrace and Gardens. (McCleery.)

Fatima believes Selim dead and agrees to marry Blue Beard. She gets the key to the Castle from Blue Beard, who enjoins her not to open the Blue Chamber.

Opening Chorus—"Daylight is Dawning."

"Songbirds of Melody Lane," Beatrice Liddell, Elsie Romaine, and Chorus. (Edwards and Bryan.)

"Beer That Made Milwaukee Famous." (Harry Gilfoil.) Bonnie Maginn and Pony Ballet.

Sister Anne and the Pet Elephant.

"In the Pale Moonlight." (Jerome and Woodward.)

"Ma Honey." (Hoffman.) Bonnie Maginn and Chorus.

Scene 2—Chamber of Curiosities. (McCleery.)

Conquered by curiosity, Fatima opens the Blue Chamber and discovers Blue Beard's awful secret.

Blue Beard's wives discovered.

Scene 3—Home of the Old Woman Who Lived In a Shoe. (E. Albert.)

The disobedient children.

Song—"Wake Up Mammy," Maude Nugent.

Song—"Mother Eve." (Schwartz.) Eddie Foy, Pony Ballet, and Chorus.

Scene 4—Hall in Blue Beard's Palace. (E. Albert.)

Dancing Specialty by Frank Young and Bessie De Voie. Music by C. Herbert Kerr.

Scene 5—Triumph of the Magic Fan. (H. Emden.)

Tableau 1—The Land of Palms.

Tableau 4—Japan.

Tableau 2—Egypt.

Tableau 5—Parisian Rose Garden.

Tableau 3—India.

Tableau 6—Spanish Rose Garden.

Electric Apotheosis.

## THE GRIGOLATIS TROUPE OF AERIALISTS

Nellie Reed, Première, and Grand Corps de Ballet.

## ACT III.

Scene 1—Hall of Pleasure in Blue Beard's Palace. (E. Albert.)

Scenes of revelry in Blue Beard's absence.

Opening Chorus—"Let Us Be Jolly As Long As We Can."

"Spoony Mooney Night." (Gus Edwards.) Bonnie Maginn and Chorus.

Pony Ballet Specialty. Music by Jean Schwartz.

"Julie." (Wm. Jerome and Jean Schwartz.) Herbert Cawthorne and Chorus.

Blue Beard returns unexpectedly.

Sister Anne gives evidence of temporary insanity. Imagines herself Ophelia.

Song—"Hamlet Was a Melancholy Dane," Eddie Foy. (Wm. Jerome and John Schwartz.)

Blue Beard discovers that Fatima has disobeyed him and threatens her and her friends with death.

Scene 2—Below the Ramparts. (Hicks and Brooks.)

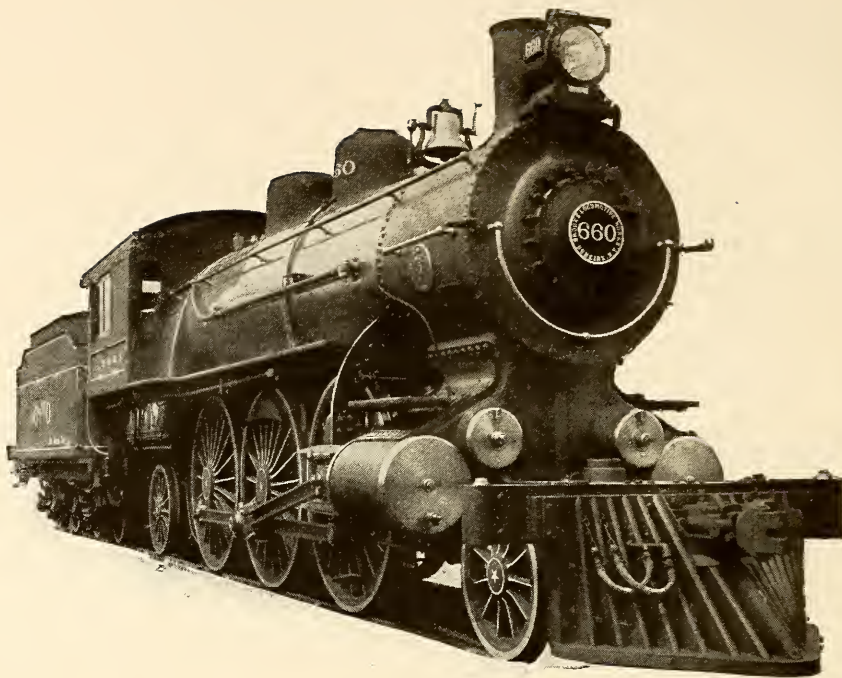
Blue Beard gives Fatima one hour in which to accept his offer of marriage or perish with her friends. Selim summons Fairies' aid. Attack on the castle by the Fairy Army. Fatima and her friends in peril.

Scene 3—The Fairy Palace. (Bruce Smith.)

Blue Beard is overthrown and the lovers are reunited.

Entrance and triumph of the Fairy Army.

Grand Transformation Scene.



# Trains of Quality

## *"20th Century Limited"*

**CHICAGO—NEW YORK  
IN 20 HOURS**

Leave CHICAGO, daily ..... 12.30 p. m.  
Arrive NEW YORK, daily ..... 9.30 a. m.



## *"The Lake Shore Limited"*

**CHICAGO—NEW YORK, 24 HOURS  
CHICAGO—BOSTON - 26½ HOURS**

Leave CHICAGO, daily ..... 5.30 p. m.  
Arrive NEW YORK, daily ..... 6.30 p. m.  
Arrive BOSTON, daily ..... 9.03 p. m.

**CITY TICKET OFFICE  
180 CLARK STREET**

A. J. SMITH, Gen'l Pass'r and Tkt. Agt., CLEVELAND, OHIO  
C. F. DALY, Chief Assistant Gen'l Pass'r Agt., CHICAGO, ILL.



## CAST OF CHARACTERS

MR. BLUE BEARD .....		HARRY GILFOIL
SISTER ANNE .....		EDDIE FOY
FATIMA .....		MISS BLANCHE ADAMS
SELIM .....		ADELE RAFTER
IMER DASHER .....		BONNIE MAGINN
ABDALLAH .....		NORA CECIL
MUSTAPHA .....		ROBERT A. EVANS
IRISH PATSHAW .....		HERBERT CAWTHORNE
HATRAC .....		J. SARONY LAMBERT
KORAFAI .....		BESSIE DE VOIE
ABADDIN .....		SAM REED
ABUMUN .....		FRANK YOUNG
MIRZA .....		MISS DUPONT
ZAIDEE .....		MISS WYNNE
AMINA .....	} Blue Beard's Six Pretty Wives. }	MISS RICHARDS
ZARA .....		MISS BEAUTE
NADIE .....		MISS WILLIAMS
BECA .....		MISS ROMAINE
ZOLI .....		MISS BRANDT
LAIDOFF .....	} Blue Beard's Six Ugly Wives. }	BERT EWING
DUNFOR .....		L. A. MASSETTE
KNOUSE .....		C. W. NORTHRUP
BADUN .....		JOHN YATES
BACNUM .....		E. Z. MORA
PASSAI .....		CHAUNCEY HOLLAND
STELLA, Queen of the Fairies .....		MISS ANABELLE WHITFORD

Elephant and Head Tricks by Lambert and Gallagher.

PONY BALLET: SEPPIE McNEIL, LOUIE HAUMAN, ADA ROBERTSON.

BEATRICE LIDDELL, ELIZABETH HAUMAN, EVA MARLOWE,

DOROTHY MARLOWE, CAROLINE POLTZ.

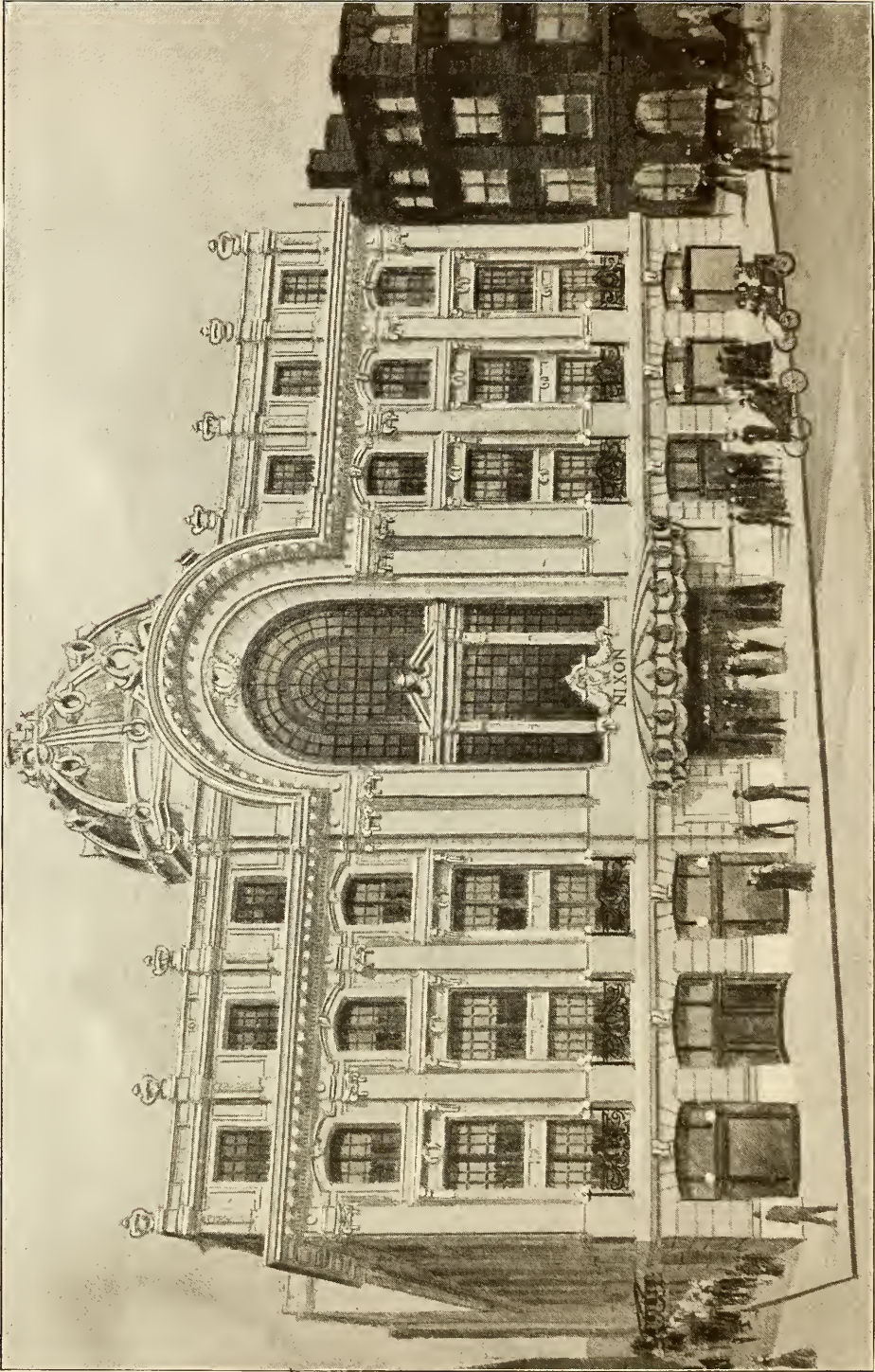
Costumes designed by Comelli, London. Made by Alias, Auguste, Simmons, Baruch, D'Allessandri, and Harrison, London, Paris, and Berlin.

Costumes for Specialties, "Ma Honey," "In the Pale Moonlight," "The Old Woman Who Lived In a Shoe," and the Pony Ballet, designed by F. Richard Anderson; made by Klaw & Erlanger Costume Company.

Shoes by Cammeyer. Tights by the Brooklyn Knitting Co. Wigs by Clarkson London, and Hepner, New York. Electrical effects by H. Bissing & Co.

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

Business Manager .....	Mr. Samuel Harrison
Stage Manager .....	Will Carleton
Assistant Stage Managers .....	Wm. Plunkett, Carl Kahn
Musical Director .....	Herbert Dillea
Ballet Mistress .....	Mme. Sarraco
Mechanical Department .....	Max. Mazzanovich, J. Andrew and Wm. Owens
Properties .....	Wm. Price
Electrician .....	Wm. Dunn
Wardrobe Mistress .....	Mrs. Quist
Assistant Wardrobe Mistress .....	Mrs. Kelly
Wardrobe Man .....	Bert Ewing
Armorer .....	Wm. Shermna



THE NEW NIXON THEATRE, PITTSBURG, PA.

# THE THEATRE

By CHARLES E. NIXON



THE pioneer days of players using the vernacular were anything but "palmy." These poor wandering Thespians were opprobriously called "vagabonds," and when they attempted to give performances in the larger towns, the authorities, under pressure of the prevailing sentiment, were ever trying to forbid them. As a result of petty persecution and municipal meddling, a great change eventually came about, bettering both the drama and its expositors, for the players wisely abandoned strolling and prepared to establish themselves permanently



MR. B. H. MARSHALL



Undesirable tenants, the actors were forced, as a makeshift, to build houses of their own beyond the town limits. Fairly familiar with the classic drama, they had neither the means nor the motive for reproducing the imposing slave-built theatres of antiquity, seen amid the ruins of Rome and Athens. As the strollers had been accustomed to performing in the court-yards of humble inns or feudal castles, a simple enclosed court served their modest architectural ambitions. Their most popular model was square eighty feet in each direction, the central portion open to the sky. The enclosure was a quadrangle of galleries that were divided into "rooms" for the wealthy and aristocratic class. Currently these "rooms" would flank the stage and be called boxes; as it was then the lords and ladies occupied the galleries exclusively.

The ground floor was so in reality, for it was merely a yard wherein the ordinary spectators had to stand. Projected into this space was a platform forty feet square which served as a stage. Along the base of the rear gallery spanning this stage were hung tapestries to shield the space behind, which might be used as a dressing-room. The gallery was for the use of actors and stage service. Its elevation served as an upper room, a balcony, a beetling cliff, or the drawbridge of some besieged castle to be valiantly defended. This stage was considered so spacious that spectators could hire stools and sit at the right or left, viewing the play and players at close range.

This severely simple platform, minus scenery or

furnishing, save the arras at the back and its quaking balcony, had of necessity to represent all the sequence of places that the imaginative playwright could demand. This poverty of resource may have provoked the dramatist



DRESS CIRCLE PROMENADE

and plagued the actors. Yet the inadequacy and provoking plainness appeared to be acceptable to the majority of the uncritical spectators in the golden Elizabethan age. This condition of simplicity was not, however, relished by all the patrons of the playhouse. The censorious Sidney, familiar with better conditions on the stage of Italy, protested against the stage on which the scene would seem to change continually, simply because there was no scenery to be changed. Sidney wrote of it as he saw it: "The player, when he comes in, must either begin with telling where he is, or else the tale will not be conceived. Now shall you have three ladies walk to gather flowers, and then we must believe the stage to be a garden. By and by we hear the news of a shipwreck in the same place; then we are to blame if we accept it not for a rock. Upon the back of that comes a hideous monster with fire and smoke; and the miserable beholders are bound to take it for a cave; while in the meantime two armies fly in, represented with four swords and



bucklers, and then what hard heart will not receive it for a pitched field."

The undertakings advanced by the heroism of the poor persecuted players in the elder day of the English drama, the practical and progressive managers have improved and perpetuated and the modern architects have beautified. During the past decade theatrical architecture has made wonderful advance in this country. Inconsiderate travelers may remark, in contrast to local achievement, the Grand Opera of Paris, the Royal Opera of Vienna, or the wonderful stages of Bayreuth or Budapest, overlooking the pertinent fact that such structures are subvented institutions under governmental jurisdiction or royal patronage, while all the opera houses and theatres in America are private enterprises, and, generally speaking, provide better entertainments and far better accommodations for the public than the most pretentious of the famous foreign opera houses.

The American public now, more than ever before, demand elegance of environment for their amusements, as well as provisions for comfort and security; yet the opportunity for architectural compliance with these exactions is restricted by reason of the enormous land values in the heart of great centers of civilization, the most advantageous locations for theatres.

The latest and most noticeable achievements in theatrical construction, not reckoning the cost to secure the finest results, are significant in the recherche New Amsterdam Theatre in New York, the finest concrete example of *L'Art Nouveau* in the world; the beautiful Nixon Theatre, now approaching



MR. WILL J. DAVIS

completion in Pittsburg, and last but not least, the Iroquois in Chicago, the finest and most complete of its many modern houses devoted to the drama.

The desirable site chosen for the Iroquois is close to that associated with the very beginning of things theatrical in this municipality nearly sixty years ago. It is located within "The Loop," is more readily accessible from traction and railway lines than any other Chicago theatre, and has a frontage on three thoroughfares, with many avenues for exit. The practical part of its promotion as an elegant edifice as well as a perfect theatre show the result of skill added to good judgment in unstinted financial outlay, with a determination to secure the best as befitting such an important artistic adventure. Every penny of the large expenditure represented in the Iroquois was made in the theatrical business. Mr. Will J. Davis and Mr. Harry J. Powers, as the result of ripe experience, understood exactly what was needed. The judicious character of their investment is unquestionable and the artistic addition to the city most advantageous. Associated with the Chicago managers are Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger of New York, and Messrs. Nixon and Zimmerman of Philadelphia, both firms being large producers as well.

The George A. Fuller Company is second to none in handling building enterprises of magnitude, and in carrying them to completion in spite of all obstacles that the uncertain temper of the times may impose. It may be recalled that this corporation carried the Illinois Theatre to completion under conditions that seemed prohibitive, and has been equally



MR. HARRY J. POWERS



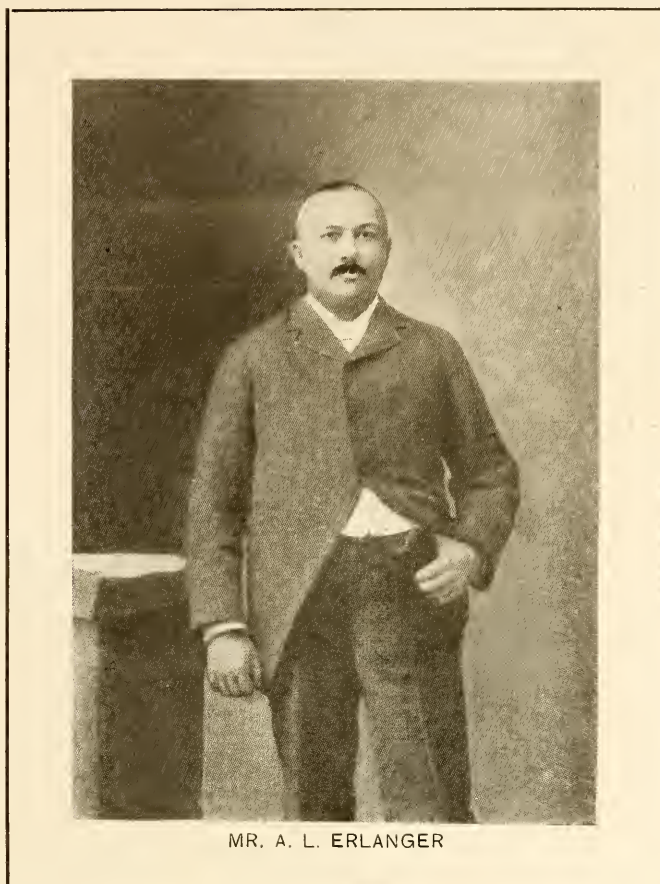
successful in completing the Iroquois at a time when other builders have been seriously delayed or entirely abandoned constructions, discouraged by the attitude of labor and contract conditions.

Mr. Benjamin H. Marshall, the architect, has shown admirable capability as a modern theatre builder, and in this instance has again given Chicago its most beautiful temple of the drama. The Illinois Theatre was the first monumental structure of the kind in Chicago, and the Iroquois is a surpassing second, as the entire building is devoted to theatrical purposes.

The Iroquois presents the most imposing and attractive façade to be seen in this city of modern structures, and will impress even the most superficial observer by its beauty and grandeur. The style, architecturally, is French renaissance, which has a strong suggestion of the classic. This mingling of the heroic and lighter lines is artistically adroit, and the result very satisfactory. The Randolph Street front is of Bedford stone deeply recessed (sixty feet wide and eighty feet high), the admirable proportion and architectural treatment making it appear larger than it really is. The central feature is a deep French coved arch thirty-five feet in width and fifty-two feet high, flanked on either side by stone columns four feet in diameter and thirty-eight feet high, weighing thirty-six tons each. Next to these in correct architectural spacing is an engaged pilaster four feet wide that returns back of the columns, acting in double function. The front view gives the impress of double free columns on either side of the



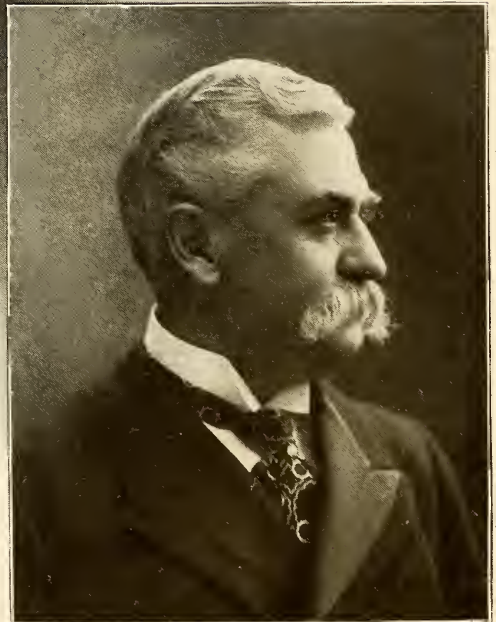
arch, adding grace and strength to the uplift of the edifice. These columns and pilasters rest upon a mammoth pedestal of St. Cloud granite sixteen feet square. The width of these bases will serve as bulletins of attractions, for which a space five feet



square is recessed and framed in carved leaves of laurel, the top center being a rich cartouche. The columns and pilasters are surmounted by a cornice nine feet high, running across the entire front from pilaster to pilaster, breaking back to the face of the



MR. SAMUEL F.  
NIXON



MR. J. FRED.  
ZIMMERMAN

arch at the top of either column. These returns are sustained by elaborately carved massive brackets of French pattern. The upward continuation of the cornice forms a pediment or gable, the apex of which is seventy-five



MANAGER'S PRIVATE OFFICE

feet above the pavement. Above its crown moulding is a parapet. Surmounting the center as a terminal is a monolith of stone twelve feet wide and fifteen feet high. The massive character of the masonry will be appreciated when it is stated that this upper wall is fourteen feet thick.

The ornamentation of the pediment is emblematic, showing the semi-recumbent figure of a woman heroic in size, representing Tragedy, and the figure of a jester, typifying Comedy. They support a richly carved cartouche as the central ornament.

The sculptors of this large group are Beil and Mauch, and the carver, Joseph Dux. The figures are cut out of the solid stone projection, the relief being  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the face of the pediment. The size of these sculptures may be judged by the fact that the ornamental head forming the keystone of the arch ten feet below them is  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4$  feet.

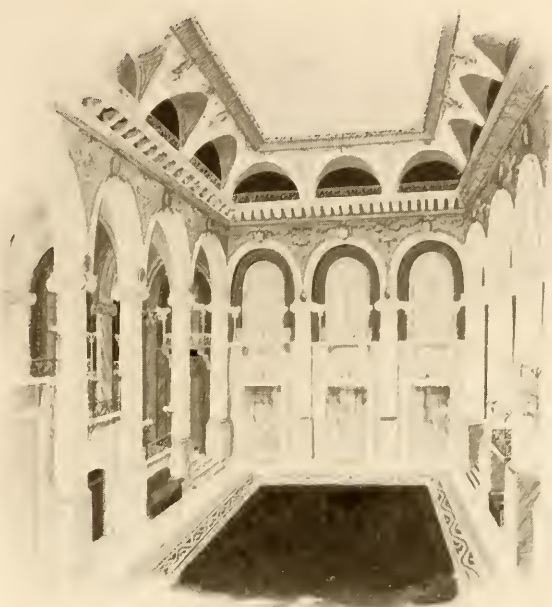
Springing up within the arched entrance are a pair of stone pilasters thirty-four feet high, supporting a cornice spanning the arch at the beginning of the curve. The upper members of this gable are



cut out as a broken pediment, allowing space for the sculptured bust of a noble Iroquois that Mr. Davis selected as typical from his large library Americana. Back of this arch is an elaborate screen of ornamental iron work (in which the Winslow Brothers have fairly outdone the Germans in their handicraft). This screen is set with heavy plate and jewel glass, giving light and airiness to the inner lobby and outer front. Five pairs of wide mahogany doors with glass panels give entrance to a vestibule 20 x 40 feet, with an eighteen-foot ceiling beamed and paneled with marble. This is elliptical in shape, allowing room for ticket and other offices on either side, their windows being an attractive feature of the otherwise plain solid construction. At the east end ornamental iron stairs lead to the business offices of the house and to the third floor above, the manager's private office. A second series of swinging doors admit to a foyer truly palatial (sixty feet wide and eighty feet long), with a colonnade of pavonazzo pillars carrying the ceiling upon groined arches sixty feet above the tessellated floor. It is by far the most majestic interior in this city or in this country, rivaling many vistas to be seen in the Congressional Library in Washington. In the dignity of its decorative disposition it suggests some kinship with the latter noble structure; but its lines are lighter, its treatment not so severely studied, while its originality is worthy of the highest praise.

A point worthy of remark is that the foyer of this house is not only in itself wonderfully impressive and attractive, but its relation to the auditorium is

singularly harmonious and effective. All parts of the house are open from this noble, lofty room of entrance, and in turn it is intimately close to the great audience room—the architect has turned the trick of the angle to perfection. To see and be seen is the duality of advantage presented for the patrons of the Iroquois.



VIEW OF FOYER FROM DRESS CIRCLE

The colonnade of tinted marble pillars on white marble bases sentinel the sides of the foyer, and mark the landings along the graceful lines of the grand staircases rising along the wall of the outer courts. These broad, easy ascents have five landings opening upon balconies that project between the columns, the ornamental iron filagree supporting graceful candelabra used as electroliers. The wall dado, as well as the wall itself, is of white marble, while high up along the line of the second story is a succession of arched French windows ornate with graceful little balconies. The draping of these windows show rich oriental colors, and their frames are set with plate mirrors which add to the brilliancy of the decorative detail and magnify the spaciousness of the interior. Pendant from the bosses of the groined arches are Etruscan crystal bowl lamps, giv-

ing soft light to the stairs and the plastic beauties of the ceiling. Deeply tufted settees, upholstered in fine fabrics, are in every embrasure along the walls of the foyer and highway of the stairs, giving a fine color note to the marble walls, the delicate veining of the pavonazzo pillars, and the decorations of the coves and arches. The line of these staircases leading to the dress circle and balcony is fascinating in its formation, framing the pillars of the inner court, whose capitols sustain an elaborate cornice and a number of heavily recessed arches along the balcony promenade. In turn these lead to ornate beaming around a skylight, 20 x 40 feet, of delicately tinted glass in cloud forms, studded with jewels, giving the effect (from concealed lights) of stars in the changing clouded sky.

The ladies' parlors and check rooms are at the center of the foyer to the left, and opposite are similar conveniences for gentlemen. These rooms sink under the broad staircases clear of the foyer. Below stairs on the right is a gentlemen's smoking room fitted up with special reference to its use. The whole effect of this foyer is delightful in detail and striking in its dazzling ensemble.

There are a number of interesting innovations in the construction of this building that will never be seen by the public. There are no obstructing pillars in the body of the house to interfere with the fine lines of sight. The dress circle and balcony are carried upon cantilevers that upon an eight-foot anchorage carry an overhand of twenty-six feet, the enormous roof trusses on the rear wall holding down the cantilevers.



Glass-paneled doors, swinging between the arches on the north of the foyer, lead to the parquette; a similar entrance for the dress circle is directly above, and that for the balcony on the third floor, all parts of the house



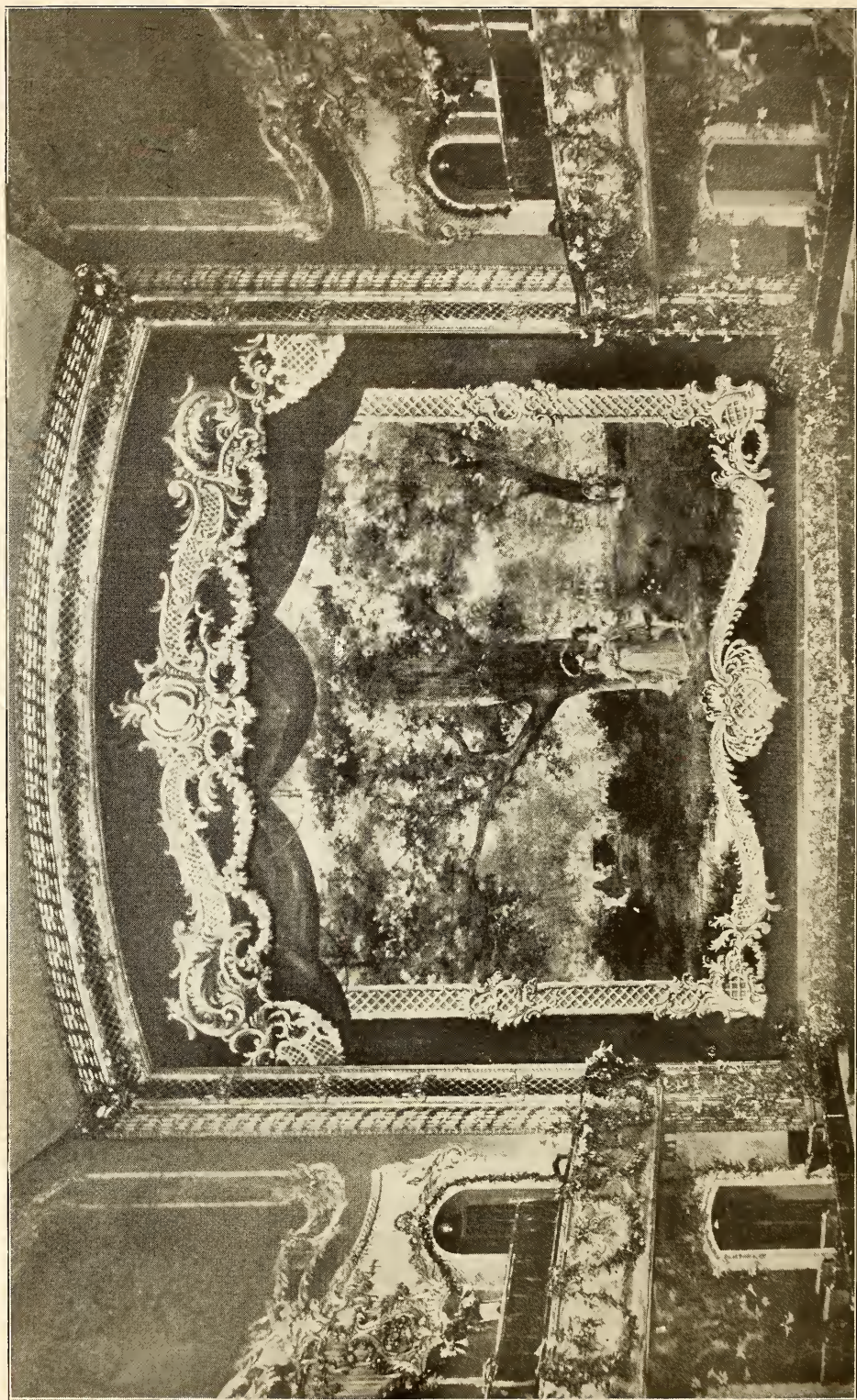
VESTIBULE

being accessible from the grand foyer. As for exits, they are far more numerous, the entire north frontage being available for such service in case of emergency. Another large emergency exit leads across the stage to Dearborn Street from the passageway and doors behind the boxes on the south side of the auditorium proper. The directness of entrance and the availability of exits are a praiseworthy feature of this admirably planned house of amusement.

The great audience room is attractive in its arrangement, spaciousness, and decoration. It is wide, compared with its depth (ninety feet wide by seventy-one feet in depth), this shell shape giving direct lines of sight and aiding the excellence of acoustics, so that the stage entertainment can be thoroughly enjoyed by every spectator.

The aisles are wide and the distance between the rows of chairs is two inches more than ordinary. The latest and best systems of heating and ventilation have been installed, so that the pure-air problem has been successfully solved. A series of col-





POWERS' THEATRE, RANDOLPH AND LA SALLE STREETS, CHICAGO. HARRY J. POWERS, Lessee and Manager.



umns seven feet from the rear wall of the lower floor follow the curve of the rear row of seats supporting the unseen cantilevers, adding grace to the structure by carrying a series of attractive electroliers. The dress circle sweeps in a flat curve so high above the parquette that the top of the proscenium arch can be seen from every seat.

There are 744 seats in the parquette, not counting the box seats, numbering 24, one of the largest lower floor capacities in the city. The dress circle has 465 seats, with two upper boxes accommodating 16; and the balcony has seatings for 475, making a total of 1,724 chairs, with plenty of good standing room on each floor.

The ceiling under the dress circle is effectively treated in a decorative way with elliptical panels, delicately defined, giving the effect of a Titanic fan spread open. The paneling of the walls is in French style and the color scheme of the house is American Beauty red, opulent in association with neutral tints of green and gold used on the plastic details. Around the house on all floors is a wainscot six feet high, of curly Hungarian ash.

Over the proscenium is a sounding board twenty feet wide, its Rococo paneling giving the key to all the ornamentation about the frame of the stage, involving the order of its proscenium boxes. The line of the elliptical proscenium arch is ornate with wreath of laurel leaves: the opening is forty-one feet wide and thirty-six feet high. The orchestra pit is spacious, with ample room for forty instrumentalists. The projection in front of the footlights is



convexed and decorated in conformity with the prevailing style of the house.

In the rear of the boxes there is ample space, which will allow plenty of room for comfortably disposing of wraps, bonnets, hats, and such other wearing apparel as patrons may desire to discard before entering the boxes.

The plan of the decorations in the Iroquois is one full of variety in design and color and more sumptuous than anything hitherto attempted in a Chicago theatre.

The walls of the vestibule are of white marble, with a subtle treatment of antique gold in the ceiling, leaving the total effect very rich yet quiet.

As you enter the foyer, the effect is in rich contrast to the vestibule. The walls are of white marble, with pavonazzo columns. Around the mirror panels on both sides of the flanking stairways is a welcome velvety red. The draperies and furnishings in a deeper tone of this same color are important notes of the decorative scheme.

The foyer ceilings and domes in the richest colors of green and rose tints of the French Renaissance style, liberally elaborated with gold, add brilliancy and crispness to the general tone of this beautiful harmony.

The color scheme of the auditorium is as beautiful as it is appropriate. The colors are quiet and neutral greens on the ceilings and a rich red on walls and with gold in the boxes and draperies.

The colors of the proscenium arch and entablatures of boxes are soft green and silver gray.

All constructional parts have the color of French statuary bronze and verdigris, elaborated with ivory tones.



The auditorium ceiling is a well-

LADIES' BOUDOIR

blended sky effect done in soft greens, cerulean blues, and mauves, with clouds in grays and pearl tints.

All the coves are finished in Sienna.

It will be observed that the facings of the boxes, dress circle, and balcony are in keeping with the colorings in the great sounding board over the proscenium arch.

This color scheme, with the deep rich red of the walls back of the seats in tone with the warm tones of the pavonazzo marble, combine to make this interior a triumph of elegance in decoration.

The designing and decorating of the Iroquois Theatre throughout is the work of the W. P. Nelson Company, an old-established Chicago firm, who also did Powers' Theatre, this city, the New Amsterdam Theatre of New York City, which has attracted much attention on account of its striking originality of design and coloring, and the new Nixon Theatre in Pittsburg, Pa., now nearing completion.

Mr. St. John Lewis has provided two exquisitely painted curtains, unique in their significance. The asbestos, or fireproof curtain, shows a summer scene on the Mohawk River, made from a sketch by the

artist himself, from which, however, he has eliminated every semblance of modern civilization, with the view of illustrating the historic valley as it might have appeared 150 years ago, when its banks were peopled with the Iroquois Indians only. The picture is in the artist's best style, and was suggested by the following verse by Mrs. Lydia H. Sigourney :

“Ye say their cone-like cabins  
That clustered o'er the vale  
Have disappeared as withered leaves  
Before the autumn gale ;  
But their memory liveth on your hills,  
Their baptism on your shore ;  
Your ever-rolling rivers speak  
Their dialect of yore.”

The act drop is a study rich and mellow in autumnal tints. It is a landscape also, and treated in Mr. Lewis' best style, intended to illustrate the following lines by Greer :

“October, tinting the summer skies,  
Had ranged on a scaffold of mist  
His gold, and crimson, and purple dyes,  
And russet and amethyst.”

The plush curtain, which is of rich velvet of a beautiful red to harmonize with the color of the auditorium, is ornamented with a portrait of Sagoyawata, or Red Jacket, a chief of the Senecas, and later the most celebrated chief in all the tribes in that confederacy of Indians known as the Six Nations, or Iroquois, after which the theatre is named. This curtain was made and ornamented by Marshall Field & Co., who also furnish the draperies.

The stage of the Iroquois Theatre is spacious, modern, and perfectly appointed, with a depth of



fifty-three feet and a width of 110 feet. The rigging loft is seventy-six feet from the stage floor and is believed to be the best constructed ever placed in a theatre. The full width of the stage corresponding with the proscenium opening is entirely clear underneath, and of sufficient depth to give working space for the most elaborate and pretentious of stage productions of every description. There are two fly

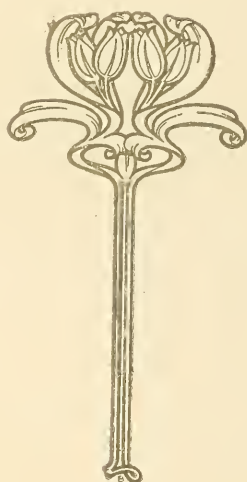


PROSCENIUM AND BOXES

galleries on either side of the stage, all of steel construction, and a steel paint bridge on the rear wall unites these upper galleries.

There are thirty-six dressing rooms, all large and comfortably furnished, and most of these above and on the south side of the stage. They are readily reached by broad, easy stairs, and, wonder of wonders, have an elevator that works at every performance instead of merely lifting baggage at the beginning and conclusion of an engagement. The supernum-

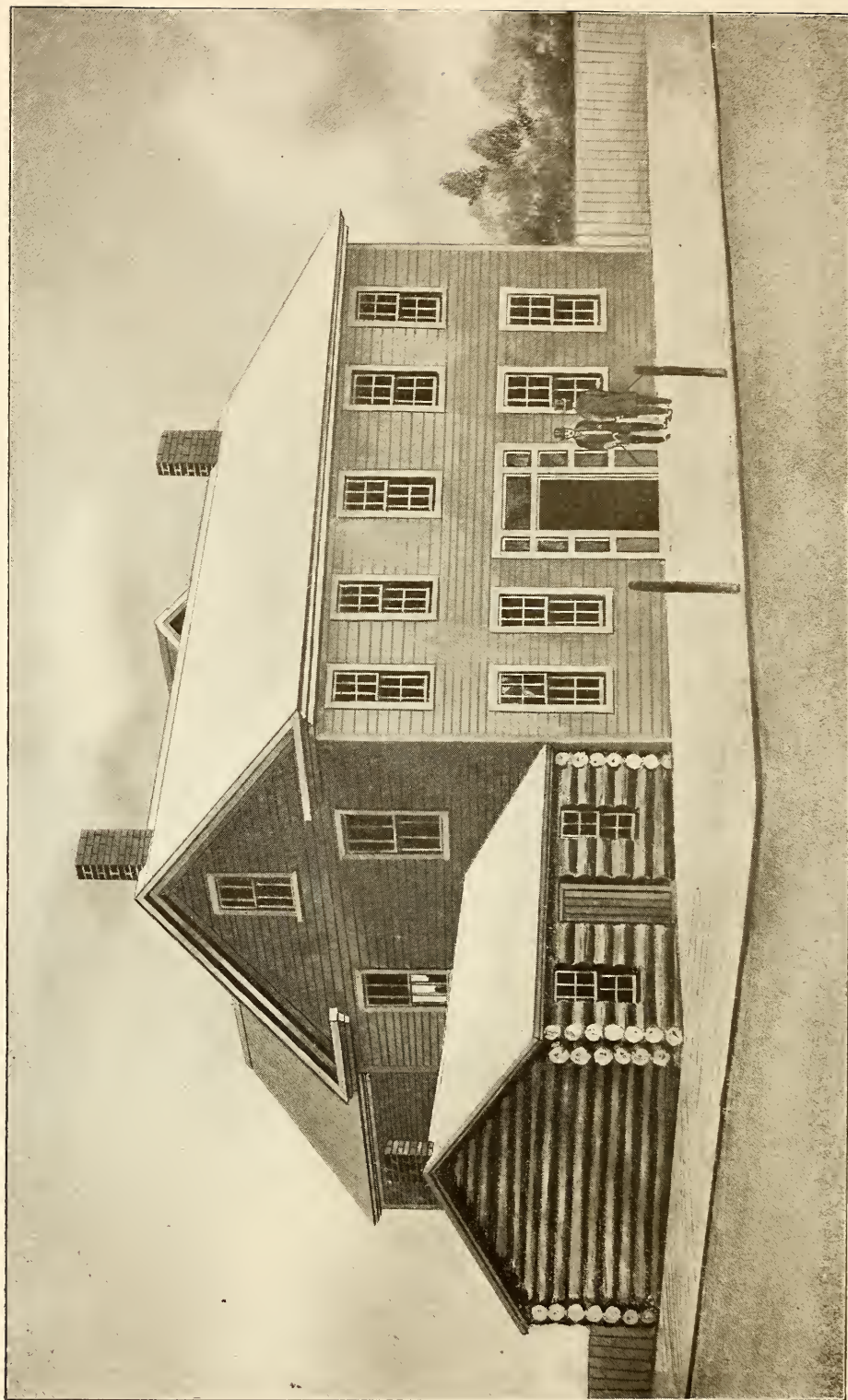
eraries have large rooms in a separate part of the basement. Adequate accommodation for the performers is unusual, but Mr. Davis, who inaugurated drastic reform in dressing-rooms in the building of the Haymarket, has elaborated on his original ideas for comfort in the Iroquois.





NIGHT VIEW — ILLINOIS THEATRE, JACKSON BOULEVARD, CHICAGO.  
HAYMAN & DAVIS CO., Proprietors. WILL J. DAVIS, Manager





SAUGANASH HOTEL, OCTOBER 13, 1837.  
SCENE AND DATE OF FIRST THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE IN CHICAGO.



## From Sauganash to Iroquois

"During the long contest between these two European powers (England and France) for supremacy upon the continent, the Iroquois were generally found in the English interest and the other tribes on the French.

History furnishes few examples of more desperate valor, more daring enterprise, or more patriotic devotion than are found in these wars first waged by the Iroquois for that revenge which they regarded as justice." *Extract from "The History of the Indian Tribes of North America," by Thomas L. McKenney and James Hall, 1811.*

### Two-thirds of a Century in the Theatrical History of Chicago

*By Edward Freiberger*



THE drama in Chicago has been a marvelous transformation scene, the like of which the world has never known. Begun in humbleness and simplicity, its many pictures have been unfolded from year to year, the changes being many, the variations notable, and the climax stupendous. Imagine, if you will, the little village of Chicago on August 13, 1833. An election for village trustees was held and only twenty-eight votes were cast. This was barely seventy years ago. A month later the actual prologue to the drama in Chicago became visible, the curtain being raised when the treaty with the Indians was signed. Very few of the Indians—principally Pottawatomies—remained in the vicinity. A few staid at Morris, Illinois. Occasionally a few would wander in to town from Mackinaw, Elk Rapids, and Traverse Bay, Michigan, but they were all peaceful. There were no places of amusement in the village, and the entertainment provided by the inhabitants was most primitive. Charles Cleaver, who came here in the autumn of 1833, wrote: "In the winter of 1833-34 amusements of any kind were few and far between. One fine moonlight night, when the ice was good, the *whole* of Chicago turned out for a skate and a frolic, and we had it. There must have been at least a hundred

persons on the river between Wells Street and the forks. Just imagine, one hundred persons the "whole of Chicago." Remember, please, that the village was not inviting to settlers. As recently as 1823, twenty years after the first house was built by John Kinzie, Major Long and party had visited Chicago on their way to the St. Peter's River, and in the narrative of the expedition, Mr. Keating, the writer, says: "We were much disappointed in Chicago and its vicinity. The village presents no cheering prospects, as notwithstanding its antiquity, it consists of but few huts, inhabited by a miserable race of men, scarcely equal to the Indians from whom they are descended. Their log houses are low, filthy, and disgusting displaying not the least comfort. As a place of business it offers no inducement to the settler; for the whole amount of trade on the lake did not exceed the cargo of five or six schooners, even when the garrison received its supplies from Mackinaw."

Still the village progressed, and in the year 1833, during which there were but four arrivals of lake craft, it organized a debating society with Gen. Jean Baptiste Beaubien as president, and soon thereafter came the first public entertainment to which an admission fee was charged. The *Chicago Democrat* of Tuesday, February 18, 1834, printed the following advertisement, the first ever published in Chicago in the interests of amusements:

## **Exhibition**

*Joy hath its limits. We but borrow  
One hour of mirth from mouths of sorrow.*

The Ladies and Gentlemen of Chicago are most respectfully informed that Mr. Bowers, Professor de tours Amusant, has arrived in town, and will give an Exhibition at the home of Mr. D. Graves, on Monday evening next.

### **Part First**

Mr. Bowers will fully personate Monsieur *Chaubert*, the celebrated *Fire King*, who so much astonished the people of Europe, and go through his wonderful Chemical Performance. He will draw a red hot iron across his tongue, hands, etc., and will partake of a comfortable warm supper by eating fire balls, burning sealing wax, live coals of fire, melted lead. He will dip his fingers in melted lead, and make use of a red hot spoon to convey the same to his mouth.

## Part Second

Mr. Bowers will introduce many amusing feats of *Ventriloquism* and *Legerdemain*, many of which are original, and too numerous to mention. Admittance 50 cents, children half price.

Performance to commence at early candle light. Seats will be reserved for Ladies, and every attention paid to the comfort and convenience of the spectators. Tickets to be had at the bar.

The home of Mr. D. Graves, referred to, was the Mansion House, at No. 88 Lake Street, owned by Dexter Graves.

Enter the pioneer of local dramatic critics. The first criticism of a public performance of any kind ever published in a Chicago newspaper was the following editorial paragraph in the *Democrat* of Wednesday, June 11, 1834:

"We were truly delighted last evening with the performance of Mr. Kenworthy. He is certainly an accomplished Ventriloquist, and is entitled to the support of those who feel interested in a display of nature's gifts. In his 'Brombach family,' he represents seven perfectly distinct characters, and carries them all through to admiration. He performs many other very interesting feats. It will be seen by reference to his notice in another column, that he may be found for the last time at 'Brombach Hall' this evening. This opportunity will not be lost by those who have an interest in exhibitions of the kind."

Remember that this was only a few months after the Pottawatomies had given up their lands to the white man. Chicago was beginning to make history. On June 19, 1834, C. Blisse gave a concert, and then came the usual small, very small, circus with the still smaller side show. In the spring of 1835, when flour was selling for \$28 a barrel, Uncle Sam gave Chicago a postoffice. And then, on June 18, 1835, came "a novelty in Chicago." This was the first fair, held by "the ladies of the Protestant Episcopal Church of this town." The town was growing, and it required only "five days by daylight to go by coach to St. Louis." The population had grown on December 9, 1835, to 3,279. The town had forty-four stores, four druggists, two breweries, one iron foundry, eight taverns, one lottery office, one bank, five churches, seven schools, twenty-two lawyers, fourteen doctors, a lyceum, and a reading room. But actors, dramatic critics, and press agents were conspicuous by their absence. Amusements were at a standstill until the Chicago Harmonic Society gave its first concert at the Presbyterian Church, Friday evening, December 11.

*George A. Fuller  
Company*

***Builders***



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1835, at 6.30 o'clock, and another Friday, January 29, 1836, to celebrate the opening of a new line of mail coaches between Chicago and Detroit, which event took place January 11, 1836. There must have been lovers of Shakespeare in the vicinity, for February 10, 1836, the *Chicago Democrat*, which was published every Wednesday, announced that two towns had been laid out eight miles from each other not far from Lake Michigan, and about thirty miles from Chicago, and that they were called respectively Romeo and Juliet. The name of the latter has since been changed to Joliet. As anyone who performed professionally in those days was called an actor, it is not surprising that the "first exhibition of professional actors" in this vicinity was a circus, and called "The Grand Equestrian Arena." This was in September or October of 1836, the single tent being located on a lot at Nos. 172, 174, and 176 Lake Street. One of the attractions was a rider by the name of Eaton Stone, who was featured by the management as "the greatest living equestrian." Stone had previously been a tailor boy in Rensselaer County, New York, and was described as being no bigger than "a pint of cider." A weird sort of amusement in those days consisted of watching the Indians receive their money from Uncle Sam. This happened every year, but only two of these payments took place after 1835. The scene of this unique entertainment was laid on the prairie on the west side of the Chicago River. The Indians gathered from the surrounding country, and every one of them received the munificent sum of \$16, which was usually paid out in thirty-two silver half dollars. Every Indian, squaw, and papoose received that amount, and the cunning of the Indian asserted itself in this, that he was always able to induce Uncle Sam to pay him \$16 in trust for an unborn child.

On March 4, 1837, Chicago was incorporated as a city, and it may be said in truth that the drama in Chicago is practically as old as the city itself, for on May 29, 1837, Dean & McKinney applied to the Common Council for a license to "open a theatre in some suitable building for the term of one or more months as the business may answer." The two pioneers petitioned

# *Across Three Mountain Ranges*

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the authorities to make the license payable weekly, but the request was denied, the Council naming \$100 as the amount. Evidently this was too much for them to pay, for they left the city without giving a performance. Mr. Edwin Dean was the father of the famous actress, Miss Julia Dean. Mr. McKinney had been a popular actor at the Bowery Theatre, New York in 1835. He afterward became the first manager of the Eagle Street Theatre in Buffalo, New York.

Now listen to the overture to the first performance of a play in Chicago. The first petition that met with the favor of the young city was the following :

"Chicago, October 17, 1837. The subscribers respectfully petition the Honorable the Mayor and Council of the City of Chicago for a license to perform plays in said city. They respectfully represent that this establishment is intended to afford instruction as well as amusement, that they are encouraged and patronized by the leading portion of the inhabitants of the city, who are interested in their success; that they propose to remain here during the winter, and that they make no calculation to receive more money in the city than what they will expend during their stay, and, therefore, they trust that in offering a rate for license these facts may be taken into consideration. Isherwood & McKenzie the petitioners, request this license for six months, if agreeable to the Board."

The Council fixed the license at \$125 for the year, and, while the petitioners protested that it was too much, they paid it.\*

As the last two theatres to be opened in Chicago proudly bear Indian names — Illinois and Iroquois — so the first home of the drama in this city likewise bore an Indian name, that of Sauganash. The first play presented in Chicago was given in the dining-room of the deserted Sauganash Hotel, which stood on a bit of ground that is now doubly historical, for on the same spot there was erected, in 1860, the famous "Wigwam," which was burned in the great fire of October 9, 1871, and in which Abraham Lincoln was first nominated for the presidency, on May 18, 1860. One of the most prominent of the early settlers

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\* A statement has been published in New York that the first dramatic performance ever given in Chicago took place on September 10, 1837, Mrs. Hester Jefferson MacKenzie appearing as Helen, in "The Hunchback." As managers were not allowed to play without licenses, and as none was issued until October 17, 1837, the statement is certainly incorrect



# W.P. NELSON COMPANY DECORATORS & DESIGNERS OF BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS

**T**HE decoration in the IROQUOIS is an example of our work; also that of POWERS'

THEATRE in Chicago, the NEW YORK THEATRE and the NEW AMSTERDAM of New York City & The latter, just recently opened to the public, has attracted much attention on account of its striking originality of design and coloring & & The interior of the NEW NIXON THEATRE of Pittsburg, now under construction, will shortly be completed by us & Correspondence solicited with architects and owners about decorations of all descriptions & &

NEW YORK and CHICAGO



was Mark Beaubien, a brother of General Beaubien, who erected a log house on the east side of Market Street, about 100 feet south of Lake Street, converted it into a tavern, and called it the Sauganash. Beaubien, who was born in 1800, was one of the popular heroes of the town, for when there were no other amusements, he would entertain the people — residents and visitors — with his fiddling, and for years and years no reunion of old settlers was complete without "Mark Beaubien and his fiddle," for the two were inseparable. Beaubien laid aside his fiddle at Kankakee, Illinois, April 11, 1881, and is now listening to better music. The tavern was named after a half-breed Indian chief, Sauganash, meaning "English." His right name was Billy Caldwell, and he was born in Canada about the year 1780. His father is said to have been an Irish officer in the British Army, and his mother a Pottawatomie squaw. He came to Chicago about the year 1820, and soon became one of the most conspicuous and popular figures in the community. He died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 28, 1841.\* The Sauganash was a two-story wooden structure 20 by 40 feet in dimensions, with a wing of the same height at the rear and another of one story at the right, the latter being a log cabin with two windows and a door. It looked very much like an ordinary log house of the Colonial period, with two windows on either side of the center door, and five windows marking the front of the second story, the roof being shaped like an inverted V. During September, 1837, John Murphy, then the proprietor of the Sauganash, vacated it and moved into a new house on the west side of the Chicago River, that marvelous stream whose once clear waters are now tainted by commerce, and its current reversed so that instead of running into Lake Michigan the latter now partially cleanses it and helps it reach the Gulf of Mexico.

Messrs. Isherwood & MacKenzie secured the Sauganash

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\* MARRIED.—In this place on the morning of the 18th inst., Billy Caldwell, chief of the United Nations of Ottawa, Pottawatomie, and Chippewa Indians, to Saugua le Grand, of the Pottawatomie Nation.—*Chicago Democrat*, November 10, 1834.

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and converted the dining-room into a theatre accommodating about 200 persons. The floor was level and the seats were rough boards, although a few common chairs were placed in front for ladies and their escorts. The building had been reconstructed internally to represent a complete modern theatre in miniature. This was a great building for a city scarcely seven months old, and with just 4,179 inhabitants. The price of admission was 75 cents. The opening play on this eventful first night of October 17, 1837, was the three-act melodrama by J. T. Haines, entitled "The Idiot Witness, or A Tale of Blood." The leading man was William Leicester, an Englishman. Harry Isherwood, who did the "plain acting" as he termed it, was also the scenic artist of the company. He painted the first scenery used in Chicago, and as late as 1878 was scenic artist at Wallack's Theatre, New York, his "exteriors" being particularly fine. He was born in New York, where he made his debut at the Park Theatre as Richard III., and lived to be over eighty years of age. Alexander MacKenzie, the junior partner, was an uncle of the present Joseph Jefferson, having married Miss Hester Jefferson, a sister of the present Joseph Jefferson's father. Mrs. MacKenzie, born in 1811, and educated in Philadelphia, had the distinction of being the first woman to play Mrs. Malaprop in "The Rivals" in America, and likewise the first in Chicago. Both Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie now lie buried in the old City Cemetery at Nashville, Tennessee. William Leicester, who played Robert Arnaud on that eventful night, had the honor later of being the first man to play Shylock in Chicago. In after days he succumbed to the demon drink. That Chicago was even then an enterprising place is proven by the fact that "The Idiot Witness" was first seen in America at the old Warren Theatre, Boston, in 1836, so that it took barely a year for the play to come from the center of learning to the village in the wilderness. It is interesting to note that there is still one dearly beloved actress among us who took part in a performance of this melodrama as far back as 1849, when it was presented at the National Theatre.

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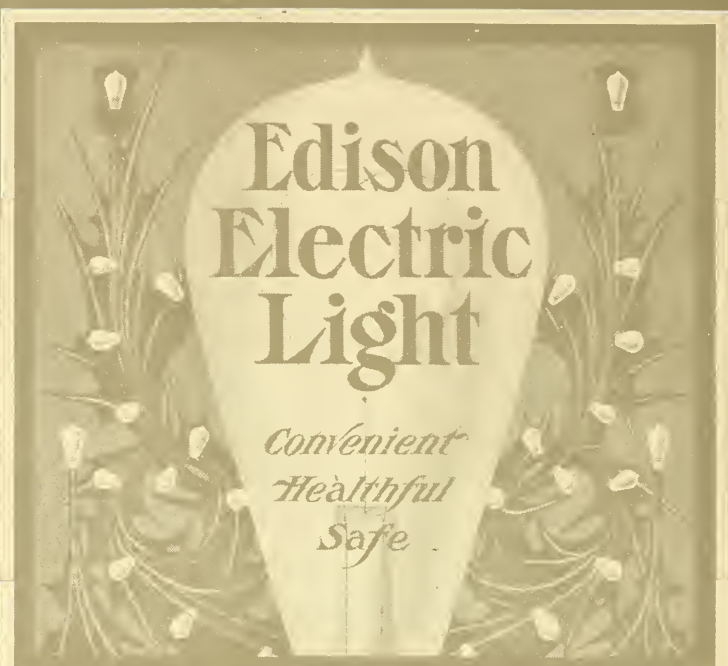
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Boston. This dear old lady, whose career has been a constant succession of triumphs, is Mrs. W. G. Jones, who fifty-four years later played Juana to the Pepita of Miss Maude Adams in "The Pretty Sister of Jose" at the Illinois Theatre, October 26, 1903. That old first theatre did not even boast of a common wooden sidewalk. Instead there was an ordinary earthen pathway, with two short and stumpy hitching posts opposite the front doorway, which was barely large enough to admit two persons at one time. In 1854 Harry Isherwood, then eighty years of age, wrote to Mr. James H. McVicker from New York that he remembered but one play given during the first season of 1837, namely, "The Stranger," adding "you do me wrong to call me from the grave." It is an interesting fact that at least three of the early Chicago actors were also scenic artists, namely, Harry Isherwood, Joseph Jefferson II., and Mr. Beckwith, who was a member of John B. Rice's company in 1847 and 1848. In those early days the auction rooms had come nearest to being places of amusement during the long evenings, so naturally the theatre was heartily welcomed. The plays were well given and were always followed by a farce. The playbills were not the cumbersome pamphlets of the twentieth century, but were small handbills, about 12x6 inches in size, and were distributed by carriers every morning, as there were then no daily papers in the city. Of the plays presented during that first season no complete record is to be found. But it is known that Thomas Sankey played the "old men"; James S. Wright was the "walking gentleman," and Mrs. David Ingersoll was the "leading lady." Others in the company were Mrs. Alexander MacKenzie, Madame Analine, actress and danseuse, and the present Joseph Jefferson's gifted half-brother, Charles Burke, who acted, and danced the Highland fling and the sailor's hornpipe. Mrs. David Ingersoll was another aunt of the present Joseph Jefferson. She had married David Ingersoll, a tragedian of great promise, who died in St. Louis in 1837, aged 25 years. She was an actress and a dancer, and lived at the old Lake House, a three-story brick structure built in 1836





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at the corner of Rush and Kinzie Street, where she gave out dancing to young Chicagoans. When the company left city she remained a while in Chicago and continued teaching. After leaving Chicago she married James S. Wright, a member of the old company at the Sauganash, who afterward became prompter at Wallack's Theatre, New York. Wright died in New York on June 27, 1893, at the age of 70. Mrs. Wright died in 1896. Chicago's first company of actors pleased the people for several weeks, and then left the city, presumably to appear in other cities in Illinois, and possibly in St. Louis. The towns that probably attracted the company were Joliet (now Joliet), Ottawa, Peoria, Jacksonville, Springfield, and Vandalia, the last named being then the capital of Illinois. It has been claimed by certain old settlers of Chicago that these performances at the Sauganash, in October, 1837, were undoubtedly the first in the State of Illinois, a statement hardly apt to be true, as a number of the adjoining towns were much older and larger in 1837 than Chicago, and must have drawn to them some of the roving companies that were seen in St. Louis and the Southern cities before Chicago was incorporated.

The company returned in 1838 and included among its members Mr. and Mrs. Greenbury C. Germon, then recently married. The latter, Jane Anderson Germon, was then but 16 years of age, and was a cousin of the present Joseph Jefferson. Her mother was the first Joseph Jefferson's favorite daughter, Euphemia Jefferson, who was born Euphemia Fortune, in New York, in 1774, on the identical day that her prospective husband was born at Plymouth, England. Euphemia's sister, Esther Fortune, became the second wife of William Warren, the elder, and in this manner the Jefferson and Warren families first became related to each other, a relationship emphasized in Chicago, in 1867, when Joseph Jefferson III, married Miss Sarah Anne Isabel De Shields Warren, daughter of Henry Warren II. Jane Anderson Germon, who at last accounts was still living in Baltimore, retired from the stage during the season of 1889-1890. Two years after her first arrival in Chicago, she was in Augusta, Ga., where on June 13, 1840, she became the



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mother of the talented Effie Germon, who was for many years a favorite comedienne at Wallack's Theatre, New York. Mr. Germon, at the time of his arrival in Chicago, was but 22 years of age. He played the usual variety of parts while in Chicago, and afterward became the original Uncle Tom in "Uncle Tom's Cabin." He died in Chicago April 14, 1854, aged 38 years. William Warren, then only 26 years of age, was a member of this company of pioneer actors and became an immediate favorite, appearing in several of the roles in which he afterward won so much fame and popularity in Boston, favoring Chicago with his Sir Lucius O'Trigger in "The Rivals" as far back as October 30, 1839, when the majority of the patrons of the playhouse were unfamiliar with classic comedy, either in the library or on the boards.

And in this company was a little boy who lived to be the dean of the American stage, whose exquisite art has never been excelled in the playhouse, whose long flaxen hair grew shorter with the years, then darker, and then whiter as the blessings of age silvered his brow, the while the player and the play-goer learned to delight in the genius and profit by the art of Joseph Jefferson, who was born at the southwest corner of Spruce and Sixth Streets, Philadelphia, February 20, 1829. His mother was Cornelia Frances St. Thomas Jefferson, his father being her second husband. Young Jefferson's first playhouse was "behind the scenes," and when on Monday evening, September 28, 1903, Chicago was celebrating her Centennial, Joseph Jefferson had the distinguished privilege of appearing at Powers' Theatre in "Rip Van Winkle" and of saying to his attentive audience at the close of the play: "I played in Chicago sixty-five years ago."

It was soon found that the Sauganash was in the outskirts of the city, so the next building to be converted into a theatre and opened in May, 1838, was known as the Rialto, a cheap wooden structure at Nos. 8 and 10 South Dearborn Street, and owned by Augustus Garrett, who became Mayor of Chicago in 1843. The theatre was in the upper portion of the structure, a room 30 x 80 feet in size. Benjamin F. Taylor described



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*THE WELLINGTON HOTEL*  
*ALBERT S. GAGE, Prop.*

it a— a den of a place, looking more like a dismantled grist mill than the temple of anybody. The gloomy entrance would have furnished the scenery for a nightmare, and the light-within were sepulchral enough to show up the coffin scene in 'Lucretia Borgia.' But for all that those dingy old walls used to ring sometimes with renderings fine enough to grace grander Thespian temples, though there was a farce now and then somewhat broader than it was long."

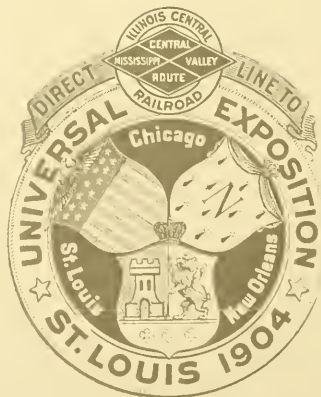
Still the Rialto was not opened without opposition, for the late Grant Goodrich, a prominent citizen in his day, declared the theatre a "menace to the moral welfare of the city," contending "that the tendency of the performance at modern theatres was grossly demoralizing, destructive of principle," and that they "were nurseries of crime." But the Common Council thought differently and fixed the theatre license at \$100 a year, which was \$25 less than the opponents of the enterprise had expected it would be. The Rialto, originally used as an auction house by L. W. Montgomery, was quite in the center of the city. Side by side were two saloons, "The Rialto" and "The Eagle," the latter kept by Ike Cooke. Directly opposite, on the east side of Dearborn Street, close to the auction rooms, was the "Eating House" known as "Steele's Refectory." The new playhouse was called the Chicago Theatre, and a number of new people were added to the company previously seen at the Sauganash. Joseph Jefferson, who first landed here by boat, in May, 1838, remembers that the Chicago Theatre "was quite the pride of the city, and the idol of the new managers, for it had one tier of boxes and a gallery at the back. I don't think that the seats of the dress circle were stuffed, but I am almost sure that they were planed." The company consisted of William Leicester, William Warren, James Wright, Charles Burke, Joseph Jefferson, Sr., Thomas Sankey, William Childs, Harry Isherwood, artist, Joseph Jefferson, Jr., Mrs. Alexander MacKenzie, Mrs. Joseph Jefferson, Mrs. David Ingersoll, and Mrs. Jane Germon. Young Jefferson was, in his own words: "The comic singer of this party, making myself useful in small parts and first villagers; now



# CHICAGO-ST. LOUIS



DAYLIGHT SPECIAL, GREEN, GOLD AND BROWN TRAIN  
DIAMOND SPECIAL, NIGHT TRAIN



and then doing duty as a Roman Senator at the back, wrapped in a clean hotel sheet, with my head peering over the profile banquet tables. I was just nine years old. I was found useful as Albert and the Duke of York. In those days the audience used to throw money on the stage either for comic songs or dances. And oh! (with that thoughtful prudence which has characterized my after life), how I used to lengthen out the verses." The stars during the season were Mrs. McClure, Dan Marble, and A. A. Adams. Some of the plays acted were "The Lady of Lyons," "The Stranger," "Rob Roy," "Damon and Pythias," "Wives as They Were, Maids as They Are," and "Sam Patch." The first season at the Rialto continued until October, 1838, when a benefit was tendered Mr. MacKenzie by many of the citizens, fifty-one in all, who addressed a complimentary letter to him in which they extolled the artistic excellence and private worth of himself and company. Among those who signed it were: John Calhoun, Mark Skinner, Julius Wadsworth, T. R. Hubbard, Thomas Hoyne, George Kerchival, Norman B. Judd, H. O. Stone, and S. S. Bradley. The benefit took place October 18, 1838, and was notable for the first performance in Chicago of "The Lady of Lyons." The cast was as follows:

Claude Melnotte .....	William Leicester
Beauseant .....	William Warren
Glavis .....	Greenbury C. Germon
Colonel Damas .....	Thomas Sankey
Deschappelles .....	James Wright
Gaspar .....	Charles Burke
Officer .....	Mr. Watts
Pauline .....	Mrs. David Ingersoll
Madame Deschappelles .....	Mrs. Joseph Jefferson
Widow Melnotte .....	Mrs. Alexander MacKenzie

At the conclusion of the play Master Joseph Jefferson sang the comic song, "Lord Lovell and Lady Nancy." Mr. Germon then recited "The Hunters of Kentucky" for the first time in Chicago. The performance, which began promptly at 7 o'clock, concluded with a very pretty drama, "Two Friends." The season began in May and closed in October, quite reversing the present order of things. No performances were given during what would now be termed the season of 1838-1839. In those days if the manager took in \$100 a night, he did



# California

The Old Way—dim lights in ceiling of car, so that reading by night is almost impossible. The New Way—electric side lights, conveniently placed in each Pullman section; you can read without eye-strain; also easily disrobe or dress.

Many other new travel luxuries on

## The California Limited

THE CALIFORNIA LIMITED runs between Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. Daily service commences November 29, until then semi-weekly. Less than three days to southern California. Visit the GRAND CANYON OF ARIZONA en route—a mile deep, miles wide, and rainbow-tinted.

Our illustrated booklets, mailed free, will help you rightly plan a California tour. Address,

*"Night reading made easy by electric berth lights."*

**J. M. CONNELL, General Agent,**

109 Adams Street

CHICAGO



ALL THE WAY

exceedingly well, and those were the good old days when good old actors and good younger ones, too, were content to play for a modest salary, when, in spite of appetites and desires they still thought a little more of their art than they did of money, when every player realized that there was still something left for him to learn. One of the actors of this period was Isaac Merritt, who was destined to win everlasting fame as an inventor. He usually played Richard III. His right name was I. M. Singer, a name now world-famous as that of the inventor of the Singer sewing machine. And at this time, April 27, 1839, Edmund Gill attracted attention to his hotel on the corner opposite the Lake House, by calling it the Shakespeare. Dan Marble came along during the last week of May, 1839, and "gave his Yankee tricks, stories, and notions in full style. His wife assisted him on the stage."

Chicago had an actors' colony in those early days, for the first City Directory, published in 1839, contained the following names:

BURKE, CHARLES, actor, Chicago Theatre.  
 GERMON, GREENE C., actor, Chicago Theatre.  
 GREENE, C. L., actor, Chicago Theatre.  
 JEFFERSON & MACKENZIE, managers, Chicago Theatre, Dearborn St.  
 JEFFERSON, JOSEPH, Jefferson & MacKenzie.  
 JEFFERSON, JOSEPH, (Joe), comedian, Chicago Theatre.  
 JEFFERSON, THOMAS, actor, Chicago Theatre.  
 MACKENZIE, ALEXANDER, Theater, Jefferson & MacKenzie.  
 SULLIVAN, A., actor, Chicago Theatre.  
 WARREN, WILLIAM, comedian, Chicago Theatre.  
 INGERSOLL, MRS., actress and teacher of dancing, bds. Lake House

On August 31, 1839, the theatre was reopened by Joseph Jefferson (father of Rip), with Colman's musical comedy, "The Review, or The Wag of Windsor," and "The Illustrious Stranger, or Buried Alive." The company was practically the same as during 1838, with the addition of A. Sullivan and C. L. Green. Mr. Jefferson, who like his son was a painter as well as an actor, had succeeded Mr. Isherwood as Alexander MacKenzie's partner. The theatre had been newly painted. The motto over the drop curtain was: "For Useful Mirth Or Salutary Woe." Chicago audiences of that day were not so well behaved as might have been desired, for the daily paper felt called upon to say "There is a police in attendance whose *duty* it is to preserve strict order and decorum in the theatre. If the ladies are waiting for fashionable precedents, we will



*"THE OVERLAND LIMITED."  
Electric Lighted.*

**ONLY THREE DAYS  
CHICAGO  
TO  
CALIFORNIA  
VIA  
UNION PACIFIC  
ON  
"THE OVERLAND LIMITED"**

**Finest  
Train**



**Smoothest  
Roadbed**

Daylight ride through Echo and Weber  
Canons, skirting GREAT SALT LAKE,  
down the Humboldt Valley and over the  
wondrously beautiful Sierra Nevada's.

Full Information Cheerfully Furnished on Application to  
**W. G. NEIMYER, G. A.**  
193 South Clark St.

inform them that at Springfield, in this State, the theatre was attended generally by the beauty and fashion of the fair sex and by the gentlemen of the place, of all official positions from Judge of the Supreme Court down. This has been the case, we believe, at St. Louis and in the East."

Joseph Jefferson, the second, was born in Philadelphia in 1804, and in 1826 married Mrs. Burke, who was eight years his senior. He was manager and actor, and always painted his own scenery. He died suddenly at Mobile, Ala., at midnight, Thursday, November 24, 1842, of yellow fever. He was buried the next day in Magnolia Cemetery, Mobile, the theatre being closed two nights, as the company, with the exception of six people, was composed entirely of members of the great Jefferson family, and it was impossible to play without the chief mourners. Mr. John T. Ford, of Baltimore, said that Mr. Jefferson "was one of the most lovable men that ever lived."

Up to this time no regular theatrical advertisements had appeared in the daily paper, editorial paragraphs taking their place. But on Monday evening, September 9, 1839, the first regular advertisement in behalf of a legitimate theatrical performance in Chicago made its appearance as follows:

## THEATER.

**Monday Evening, September 9, 1839.**

Will be presented the drama called

### **The Magpie and the Maid, or Which is the Thief?**

Farmer Gerald.....	Mr. Green
Benjamin, a Jew Pedlar .....	Jefferson
Annette .....	Mrs. Ingersoll
Dame Gerald.....	MacKenzie

After which a CONCERT.—PART I

Ballad by Mr. Dempster "She wore a wreath roses". New Song, by Mr. Dempster, "Can I forget to love thee?"—composed by himself—  
Scottish Ballad by Mr. Dempster "Saw ye my wee thing."

PART II

The Angel's Whiper, by Mr. Dempster.—  
Song by Mr. Dempster, "Some love to roam o'er the dark sea foam." Song by Mr. Dempster.  
"Oh promise me to sing love".

To conclude with the **Irish Tutor, or New Lights.**



J. H. DIMERY, PRESIDENT.

T. W. GILMORE, SECY AND TREAS.

ESTABLISHED 1859.

# C. W. Wilmarth Co.

**High-Class  
Gas and  
Electric  
Fixtures**

**261 WABASH AVENUE, CHICAGO**

Telephone, Harrison 3862.

LIGHTING FIXTURES FOR THIS THEATER  
FURNISHED BY US.

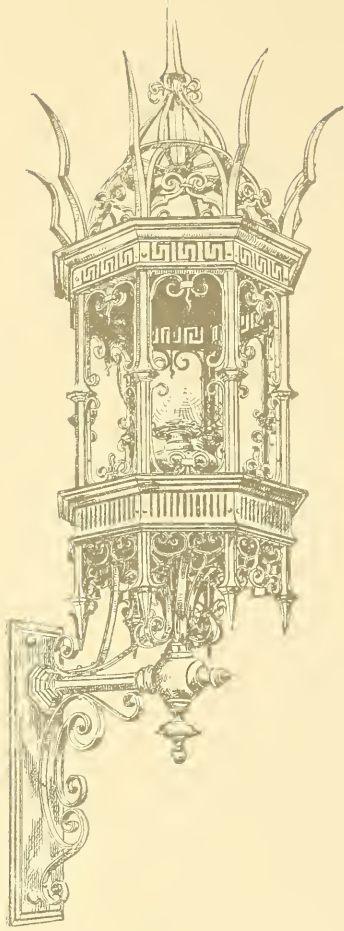
WE HAVE CONTRACTS FOR THE LIGHTING FIXTURES  
FOR THE FOLLOWING BUILDINGS:

First National Bank Building	Chicago, Ill.
Railway Exchange Building	Chicago, Ill.
Nixon Theater and Building	Pittsburg, Pa.
Butler Hotel	Seattle, Wash.
Joliet Public Library	Joliet, Ill.
Chesbrough Building	Toledo, Ohio
Hibernia Bank Building	New Orleans, La.
Third National Bank	Cincinnati, Ohio
First National Bank	Cincinnati, Ohio
Doctor Coffee's Residence	Des Moines, Iowa
Mr. W. J. Young's Residence	Clinton, Iowa
Governor Toole's Residence	Helena, Mont.

Please note that there was a change of bill at every performance and that two or three plays were given every evening.

"Oliver Twist" had its first performance in Chicago, September 16, 1839, Mrs. Germon playing Oliver; Mr. Sankey, Fagin; William Warren, Bill Sykes; and Mrs. MacKenzie, Nancy Sykes. Tuesday, September 17, 1839, was another important first night, Colman's "The Poor Gentleman" being played with William Warren as Dr. Ollapod. "She Stoops to Conquer" was first given on Thursday, September 19, 1839, and "Jane Shore" on Friday, September 20, 1839, with Mrs. Germon as Jane Shore. During the last week of September, 1839, the management found it necessary to build "a separate entrance for ladies" due no doubt to the rather rude behavior of the male theatergoers of that period. "Damon and Pythias" was given for the first time Friday, September 27, 1839, with Mr. Leicester as Damon and Mrs. Germon as Calanthe. The house was packed.

The time was now ripe for the advent of so-called "stars" and they came. Mrs. McClure and Mr. Charles Kemble Mason had the honor of being the first stars to shine in Chicago. They appeared on Wednesday, October 2, 1839, in "The Lady of Lyons." The next evening they gave "The Wonder" for the first time here. Friday, October 4, 1839, "Fazio" was given for the first time, followed by "Katherine and Petruchio." Still the first presentation of a Shakespearean play in its entirety did not take place until Monday, October 7, 1839, Mrs. McClure being the first Juliet and Mr. Mason the first Romeo Chicago ever saw. "Macbeth" was first given Thursday, October 10, 1839, with Mr. Mason as Macbeth, Mr. Leicester as Macduff, and Mrs. McClure as Lady Macbeth. And strange to say, the Shakespearean performances were the best of the season. And then followed the first performance of "Hamlet," Tuesday, October 15, 1839. It was given for Mr. MacKenzie's benefit, and Charles Kemble Mason had the distinction of being our first Hamlet, while Mrs. McClure was our first Ophelia. Mr. James H. McVicker, in his interesting reminiscences of the early Chicago stage, credits Charles Kemble Mason with being the first Shylock that Chicago ever saw. This is an error.



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ORNAMENTAL  
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ART METAL WORK

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IROQUOIS AND ILLINOIS THEATRES

OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE  
100 and 102 Lake St.

FACTORY: Chester St.,  
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CHICAGO

"The Merchant of Venice" was not given until Thursday October 17, 1839, and for William Leicester's benefit, that gentleman appearing as Shylock. On October 21, 1839, "Pizarro, or the death of Rolla" was given, little Joseph Jefferson appearing as the child. How many in the audience thought of seeing him in 1868 as Rip Van Winkle? Wednesday, October 30, 1839, is of historic interest, for on that evening "The Rivals" was given for the first time in Chicago and for the benefit of William Warren, although no mention of his name was made in the simple advertisement of that day, and which read as follows:

## THEATER.

Wednesday Evening, October 30, 1839

Will Be Presented

**THE RIVALS—Or, A Trip to Bath.**

To conclude with

**THE MILLER'S MAID.**

Please observe the Jeffersonian flavor of the cast:

Sir Anthony Absolute.....	Thomas Sankey
Bob Acres.....	Joseph Jefferson
Captain Absolute.....	William Leicester
Faulkland.....	Greenbury C. Germon
David.....	C. L. Green
Sir Lucius O'Trigger.....	William Warren
Fag.....	Charles Burke
Mrs. Malaprop.....	Mrs. Alexander MacKenzie
Lydia Languish.....	Mrs. David Ingersoll
Julia.....	Mrs. Greenbury C. Germon
Lucy.....	Mrs. Joseph Jefferson

The cast included Mr. Jefferson, his wife, his two sisters, his niece, his stepson, his cousin, and his niece's husband. At this time the elder Jefferson was only 35 years of age.



# CALIFORNIA



## The Land of Sunshine, Fruit and Flowers

California is less than three days away.

Its balmy breezes, blue sea, smiling orchards, and beautiful mountain ranges, its magnificent opportunities for outdoor sports and its health-laden air, make it the greatest winter resort known.

The most luxurious train in the world, the famous electric-lighted

## Overland Limited

leaving Chicago daily at 8.00 p.m., makes the journey to California via The North-Western Line in less than three days.

The route of the Limited is over the only double-track railway between Chicago and the Missouri River, through Omaha, Cheyenne and Ogden, down the Valley of the Sacramento to the Golden Gate, and via the San Joaquin Valley or over the beautiful Coast Line (where for a hundred miles the road lies along the shore of the shining Pacific) to Los Angeles.

Two fast trains through to California leave Chicago via the Chicago & North-Western Railway daily. Sleeping car reservations and full information on request.

TICKET OFFICES,

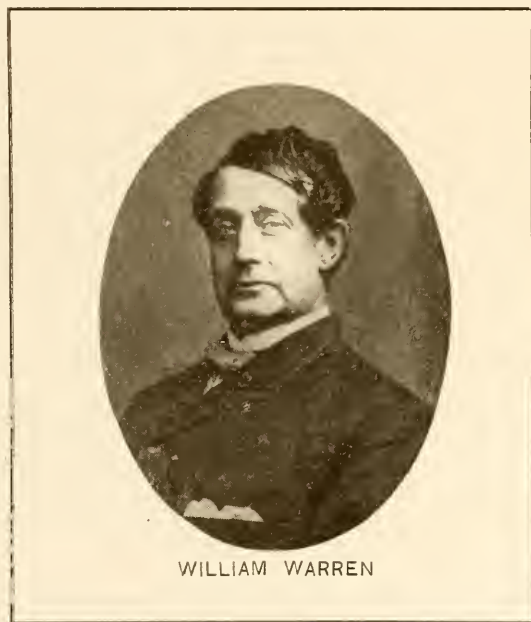
212 Clark St. and Wells St. Station, Telephone Central 721

NW129

CHICAGO, ILL.



Mrs. Jefferson was 43 ; Charles Burke only 17 ; Mrs. Ingersoll about 24 ; Mrs. MacKenzie about 28 ; Mrs. Germon 17, and Mr. Germon 23. William Warren, born in Philadelphia, November 17, 1812, was 27 years of age. From here Mr. Warren went to Buffalo and then to Boston. He died at 2 Bullfinch Place, Boston, September 21, 1888. The season at the Rialto closed on Saturday evening, November 2, 1839, with "The Devil's Ducat," a drama, followed by a nautical piece, "Tom Cringle's Log." And what became of the old Sauganash? On



April 9, 1840, the following advertisement appeared in Chicago's daily :

"SAUGANASH HOTEL. This old establishment is now fitted up in elegant style, and has resumed its original and native name, with a thorough reformation of old habits and customs. JOHN MURPHY."

But the results of the panic of 1837 were making themselves felt, and for seven years after 1839 there was no dramatic company of special repute in the city. Mrs. J. G. Porter reopened the Chicago Theatre on March 31, 1842, and tried to give performances without a license, hoping to open in a burletta,

ESTABLISHED 1877

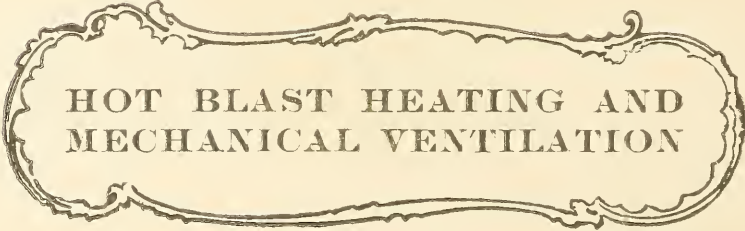
# L. H. PRENTICE COMPANY

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ENGINEERS AND  
CONTRACTORS FOR

STEAM AND HOT WATER HEATING  
AND VENTILATING APPARATUS

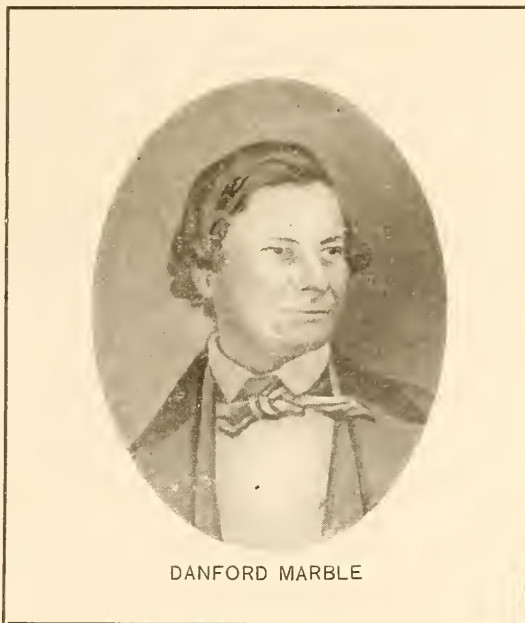


HOT BLAST HEATING AND  
MECHANICAL VENTILATION

24-26 SHERMAN ST., NEAR BOARD OF TRADE  
CHICAGO

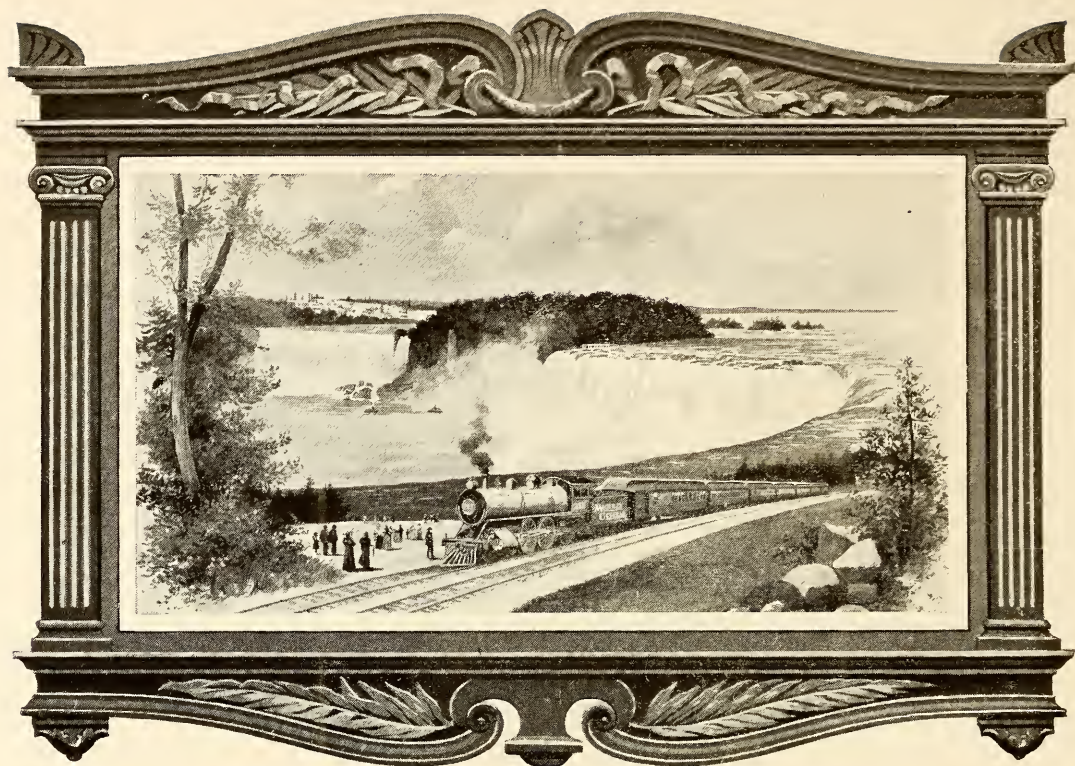
PROBABLY THE LARGEST FIRM OF THIS KIND IN THE WORLD.  
VIZ: EXCLUSIVELY HEATING APPARATUS, STEAM  
AND HOT WATER, THAT HEATS

"The Swiss Cottage." She was Chicago's first woman manager, and on April 4 she petitioned the Council for forgiveness and a license. She secured both, the price of the latter being \$30, that of the former not being quoted. On Saturday, April 9, she announced a benefit for herself. It was to be her last appearance before leaving for Buffalo. The performance began with the burlesque "The Manager in Distress, or All in a Quandary," certainly a most appropriate title. Mrs. Porter was the eldest daughter of Mrs. Mary Duff.



On August 30, 1842, Chicago had its first real opportunity to judge of the dramatic qualities of Danford Marble, who with Mrs. Marble appeared at the Rialto in "The Forest Rose, or The American Farmer." Marble was Jonathan Ploughboy and Mrs. Sillsbe (late Mrs. Trowbridge) was Harriet. The opening play of the brief engagement of three nights was supplemented with "Black-Eyed Susan," Mrs. Sillsbe playing Susan, and Mr. Marble, William. Business was poor at first, but as it improved, the engagement was several times extended and fourteen performances were given. For Marble's benefit on Monday,





## **There Is But One Niagara There Is But One Road...**

Running directly by and in full view of the entire panorama of the cataract. It is the

### **Michigan Central**

The Niagara Falls Route between

**Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo,  
New York, and Boston...**

Send three red stamps for Niagara Booklet, and ask about the new Niagara picture.

City Ticket Office, 119 Adams Street.

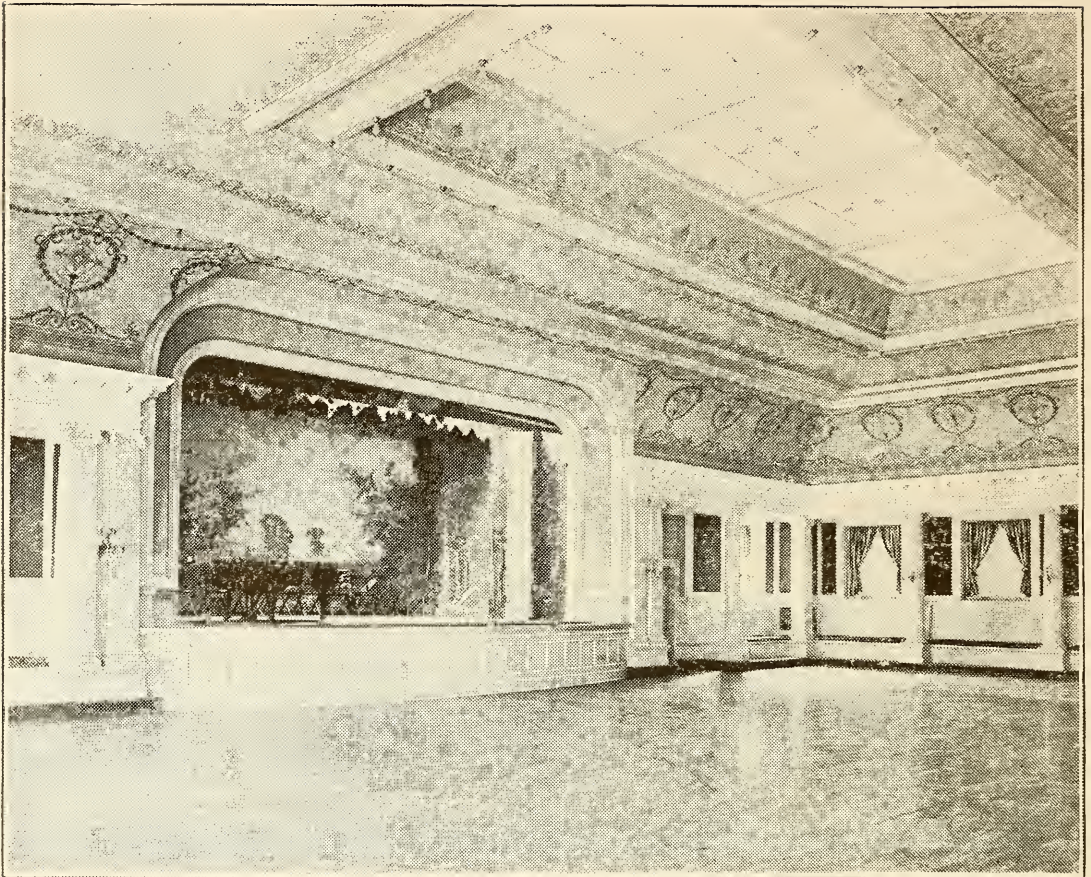
O. W. RUGGLES, G. P. AND T. A. CHICAGO.

September 5, 1842, the prize comedy, "The Yankee in Time," was given for the first time here, with Marble as Jacob Jew-sharp, a role in which James H. McVicker distinguished himself in after years. Listen to Benjamin F. Taylor :

"It was in that dirty old rat trap, the 'Rialto,' I think, that I saw Dan Marble for the first time. 'Black-Eyed Susan' and Marble's admirable William melted the house, as if it had been something in a crucible. It was, in its way, the perfection and simplicity of nature. The audience was a little mixed. There were the fellows that in New York would have 'killed the Keiser,' the 'wake-me-up-when-Kirby-dies stripe.' There was a small handful of half-breeds, a sprinkling of lieutenants from the army, one or two worn-out paymasters. The pit was full of sailors, with occasionally a wharf-rat; but for fresh-water tars there was a wonderful effusion of salt water. Even the always conscious dress-circle fluttered with any number of white cambric mops, and when the play took the right turn at last, the 'gods' applauded and the spiders hovering in their webs, and the mice in the walls, were whist. Even the chaps that spent their time in the interludes in bawling 'boots' and 'supe' and eating peanuts, mopped out the corner of their eyes with their dirty knuckles, and had the theatrical management furnished soap, as well as sorrow, some of them might have put a better face on the matter. I can see the central figures of that dress-circle to-day. Hands that I think have shriveled out of the white kids they wore that night. The blue dress coats and buff vests have been laid aside for other and stranger wear. Yonder, crowned with iron-gray Jacksonian hair, is the stately form of Colonel Kerchival. The man near him with large luminous eyes is the Hon. Giles Spring, owner of one of the finest judicial minds that ever graced the State. Beyond him is Doctor Maxwell, with a step as light as that of a wisp of a girl, for all of his two hundred and odd pounds of solid flesh. Close by are E. W. Traey, George W. Meeker, and Doctor Stuart, and — but why keep on calling the dead men's roll? Some of the beauty as well as the manhood of the young city was there, and brightened up the dull old place like moonlight; but what matters it? The footlights are out, the players departed, and the air is full of dust withal. Down with the curtain."

"Richard III" was first given Saturday, August 20, 1842, with Mr. Lyne as Gloster, and "Othello" was introduced to Chicago, September 14, 1842, in a unique way. There was a tailor here who "had been told by his friends that he could act," and he applied to the management for an opportunity. There were not many tailors in Chicago then, and as he was the only one who could act — or thought he could — there was a certainty that all his colleagues, and at least a few of their customers, would be present if he played. Business had not been sufficiently good to resist the potency of a great novelty, so the tailor was permitted to prepare himself. It was arranged





BALLROOM AND STAGE, KENWOOD CLUB.  
DECORATED BY MARSHALL FIELD & CO.

## INTERIOR DECORATING

Some of the finest theaters, residences, churches, clubs, hotels, and public buildings which are famed for their interior beauty are examples of the work of our Interior Decorating Section.

## THEATRICAL COSTUMING

Some of the most elaborately costumed companies on the American Stage were equipped by our Costuming Section.

MARSHALL FIELD & CO.

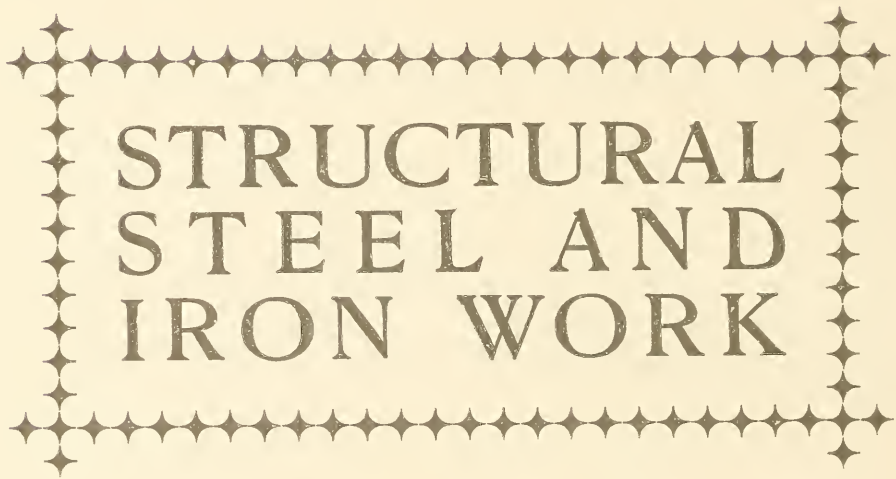
CHICAGO

to give Mrs. Powell a benefit and to allow the tailor to appear in the third act of "Othello," it being such an easy act to play, especially for a tailor. The tailor, who was billed as "a gentleman of this city," did so well that in 1848 at Rice's Chicago Theatre, he was allowed to play the character in its entirety. On another occasion, he played Iago, and later he became an actor of good repute and was known as George Ryer.

On Tuesday, September 27, 1842, the Chapman Building, at the southeast corner of Randolph and Wells Streets, was opened as a theatre by William P. Hastings, with "The Golden Farmer." Tickets, 25 cents! The season was brief and unsuccessful. Then came "The Learned Pig" in 1844. On November 21, 1844, a Museum began its legal existence in the Commercial Building, at 73 Lake Street. Its manager, Henry Fuller, boasted of an extensive variety of geology, mineralogy, conchology, ornithology, and promised that nothing should be introduced within its walls not "in strict accordance with propriety, morality, and religion." To give variety to the development of the drama in 1844, at the Old Chicago Theatre, Stephen A. Douglas had a fight one evening between the acts, with a lot of sailors, heelers, and canal laborers. The drama languished and the Rialto was again converted to its original purpose. The population had grown from 3,265, in 1835, to 3,820, in 1836; to 4,179 in 1837, and had fallen to 4,000 in 1838. In 1839 it was increased by 200. In 1844, when the population had reached 8,000, it was suggested by the Council that it was advisable to plank Lake Street between Dearborn and State Streets. Considering the city's drawbacks, youth, and isolation it was a matter of wonder that the place could boast of such a good theatrical beginning. They were brave men and women who first trod the boards of the Chicago stage, and the members of the Jefferson family especially deserve a statue for their honest and chaste efforts in behalf of the drama, when the city boasted of its 4,000, but had no "400." Chicago had grown from 12,088, in 1845, to 14,169, in 1846, and Thursday, June 30, 1846, Christy's Minstrels appeared for the first time at the City Saloon and two months later the North



# Hansell-Elcock Company



Archer Ave. and 23d Place  
CHICAGO

ALL STRUCTURAL STEEL AND IRON  
FOR THE IROQUOIS THEATRE  
FURNISHED BY THIS COMPANY

and South Sides were connected by a new ferryboat plying between River and Rush Streets, and provided free by the proprietors of the Lake House. Howe & Mabie's Arena and United States Circus appeared August 21, 1846, for four evening and one afternoon performances. Among the riders was Matthew Buckley, who grew to be the oldest showman in the United States, dying at Delavan, Wisconsin, February 28, 1897, aged 97 years. In October, 1846, the old Rialto Building was again converted into a playhouse and called the National Theatre, opening with "The Golden Farmer" and "The Harlequinade." On November 9, 1846, it was formally reopened with "Wenlock of Wenlock," with Reuben Marshael as Wenlock. The season concluded November 14th with F. D. Wilson as Othello. On Wednesday, December 23, 1846, the National Theatre became the People's Theatre. The opening bill was "The Hunchback," with Madame LaBurriss as Julia; F. D. Wilson as Master Walter; Reuben Marshael as Clifford, and Samuel Edwin Brown as Fathom. The prices during this engagement were: Boxes, 50 cents; parquette, 37½ cents; gallery, 25 cents. The performances began at 7.15 o'clock. The theatre changed its name again to the National on Thursday, January 21, 1847. The next evening "The Bandit Chief" was given, followed by "The Apostate" and "The Lottery Ticket," and at 2 o'clock on the morning of February 1, 1847, fire broke out and the theatre and adjoining buildings went up in smoke. While the house was in a blaze a wag remarked that this was positively its last appearance "for the benefit of the city," and another replied that he was rejoiced to see it "so well heated for the occasion." But it should not have been an occasion for levity. The friend of the drama should have had a reverence for the old structure whose boards had been trodden by two Joseph Jeffersons, Charles Kemble Mason, Charles Burke, Dan Marble, and William Warren.

Then came glad tidings! John B. Rice, destined to become one of Chicago's brightest ornaments, who was to be Mayor of Chicago in after days and the city's representative in Congress, came here from Buffalo and recognized the fact that the great

# "Speed, Safety and Comfort"

Is the motto which has earned for THE PENNSYLVANIA SHORT LINES  
the reputation of being THE STANDARD RAILWAY of America

THE LIMITED    Both start from Chicago—The Limited  
AND              at 6.00 p. m., and luxury enjoyed by  
LUXURY          passengers on this train at the same hour

## THE FAMOUS PENNSYLVANIA LIMITED 23 HOURS CHICAGO TO NEW YORK

Leaves Chicago, daily, 6.00 p. m.  
Arrives New York . . 6.00 p. m.

This train is composed of Pullman equipment and consists of Library-Smoking Car, Dining Car, Drawing Room Sleeping Car, and Compartment Observation Car—a solid vestibule train Chicago to New York.

**EVERY COMFORT**



### SPECIAL FEATURES

originated on the PENNSYLVANIA LIMITED: Library Smoking Car, Barber Shop, Bath Rooms, Stenographer, Stock reports and latest market bulletins, a Trained Waiting Maid, ever ready to assist ladies traveling alone, large parlor in Observation Car (the rear having a recessed and protected platform) for sight seeing.

**SEVEN TRAINS DAILY to the EAST**

Harbor and River Convention of 1847 would bring thousands of people to the growing young city of the plains, and that they would ask for entertainment. On May 5, 1847, he entered into a contract for the construction of a building, to be used as a theatre on the south side of Randolph Street, and about 100 feet east of Dearborn, within the same square that afterward held Crosby's Opera House and on the very spot where the Unity Building now stands. And strange fact, this, the first actual theatre to be built in Chicago, stood directly opposite the spot where the Iroquois now stands. After fifty-six years of growth and pride and change, the new theatre erected solely for theatrical purposes stands across the street from the lot that harbored the first structure erected in Chicago for strictly theatrical purposes. John B. Rice, who was the father of Mrs. James B. Kimball, Mrs. James W. Odell, Mrs. William Smith, Mrs. George L. Dunlap, and Mrs. Orson Smith, spent \$4,000 on the theatre! Think of it, \$4,000! But it was a large sum to expend on a theatre at a time when the telegraph reached no farther west than Ypsilanti, Michigan; just seven months before a telegraph line was opened between Chicago and Milwaukee, namely, on January 20, 1848; five years before the first railway ran into Chicago from the East over the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana tracks, and eleven years before the first street car ran on State Street! It is also something of a coincidence that this first train from the East was brought into the city by Thomas G. Davis, the father of Will J. Davis, of the Illinois and Iroquois Theatres. The theatre, built in less than fifty-four days, was an ordinary wooden structure of the period, two stories high, and excessively plain. Its interior was more ornate, and every part of the house afforded a good view of the stage. The entire lower floor was devoted to the pit. The boxes were elegantly furnished—for those days—and were fitted up with carpets and settees. The little town was enthusiastic over its new playhouse, which was opened Monday evening, June 28, 1847. Behold the opening bill:





## NEW CHICAGO THEATER

The Manager respectfully announces to the public that the above new and spacious establishment will be open for their reception THIS (Monday) evening; with a full company of experienced Artists, and an efficient Orchestra.

FIRST NIGHT OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF  
MRS. HUNT, IN FIVE DIFFERENT  
CHARACTERS.

MR. MARBLE WILL ALSO APPEAR  
THIS EVENING.

Previous to the performance, an opening Address, written by a gentleman of this city, will be delivered by Mr. Harris.

Monday evening, June 28th, will be performed the  
Comedietta, entitled

### FOUR SISTERS;

Or, Woman's Worth and Woman's Ways.

Caroline Merton .....	Mrs. Hunt
Diana .....	do
Ugenia .....	do
Ellen .....	do
Beauchamp .....	Mr. Mossop
Mr. Merton .....	Phillimore
Tom Snaffle .....	Meeker
Susan .....	Mrs. Price
Landlady .....	Mrs. Stevens

GRAND SPANISH DANCE, by Miss Homer  
Emigrant's Lament.....Mr. Mossop

To be followed by the Yankee Comedy of the

### WOOL DEALER

DEUTERONOMY DUTIFUL .....	MR. MARBLE
Capt. Oakley .....	Canoll
Col. Gormsley, with song of Rory O'More .....	Mossop
Mr. Waddle .....	Phillimore
Slap .....	Meeker
Amanda .....	Mrs. Price
Highland Fling, Miss Homer	

The whole to conclude with the Farce of the

### YOUNG SCAMP

Joseph, the Young Scamp .....	MRS. HUNT
Arthur .....	Mr. Canoll
Mildew .....	Phillimore
Gen'l Beauvoir .....	Rice
Mrs. Manly .....	Mrs. Price
Mrs. Swansdown .....	Mrs. Stevens
Eliza .....	Miss Homer

Admission. Dress Circle, 50 cents; Parquette, 25 cts.; 2nd Tier of Boxes, for colored persons, 25 cts. No female admitted unless accompanied by a gentleman. Doors open at ½ past 7. Performance to commence at 8 o'clock precisely.

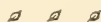
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DONE BY THIS COMPANY

The audience was large, representative, and fashionable. All the pioneers who had built the little city were there. Their wives and daughters, mothers, and sweethearts were there with them. They were all as happy as the genial manager, who was always cheerful, even in adversity. It was a new dawn for the little city, its sunrise of art, for it was then just ten years, three months, and twenty-four days old, with a population of but 15,000. The front of the house was not crowded with automobiles, or even with carriages, for pleasure vehicles were rare in those days and could not have been used had they been plentiful. The roads were not conducive to fast driving, and had wide gutters separating them from the sidewalks, when the latter existed. None of the streets were paved, and the uneven, broken sidewalks with many steps were almost as bad as the middle of the roadway. Nor were the men in evening attire. They wore their swallow-tailed coats of blue cloth with brass buttons, and buff waistcoats. The audience was an inspiration to the players. Auditors and actors were equally anxious to please each other. Those before the footlights seemed to say in their applause: "Followers of Shakespeare's calling you are welcome! You are among friends! Give us from the bounty of your art and we will give you our applause. And when the play is done, we will smile upon you with our friendship in your new home. Remember always that we desire to see 'the players well bestowed.'" And the players, gladdened and inspired, spoke and acted with new spirit, as if they meant to say: "We appreciate your welcome and we are grateful. We hope to be worthy of your approbation. Let us be friends." If the audience was an inspiration can less be said of the players? Were not Mrs. Louisa Hunt, Dan Marble, and John B. Rice on the bill that glorious history-making evening in June? And has Chicago not been faithful to the memories of inimitable Mrs. Hunt, laughter-provoking Dan Marble, and honest, noble John B. Rice? And you know, do you not, that Mrs. Louisa Hunt had been born Louisa Lane, that she was the brilliant comedienne who afterward married the comedian of the company, George Mossop, and who after his



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death, in 1848, became Mrs. John Drew, the greatest Mrs. Malaprop Chicago ever knew? The opening address, written by G. W. Phillimore, a member of the company, and delivered by Edwin Harris, was in three parts—"To The Audience," "To The Boxes," and "To The Pit." No one accused Mr. Phillimore of writing good poetry, but every one admitted that his heart was in the right place. A popular member of this company was Mrs. Rice, who was born Mary Ann Warren, a sister of William Warren and Mrs. Dan Marble. She made her début as Helen in "The Hunchback," July 26, 1847. She retired from the stage in 1854, and died at Colorado Beach, California, March 23, 1893. Mr. Rice was a man whose word was as good as a bond. On one occasion the audience was offended at Barney Williams, who did something on the stage offensive to the Irish people present. They refused to allow Williams to proceed with his lines, and then Mr. Rice appeared upon the scene, informed his patrons that if they allowed Mr. Williams to finish his performance and complete his engagement, he would give them his word of honor that Mr. Williams would never again be permitted to play at his theatre. The riot was quelled and Mr. Williams was never re-engaged. Among the men who came here to attend the Harbor and River Convention, and who patronized the playhouse, were Horace Greeley, who represented the *New York Tribune*; Thurlow Weed, who wrote for the *New York Evening Journal*, and Abraham Lincoln, the last named being then thirty-eight years of age and in Chicago for the first time. One of the great attractions in those days was T. D. Rice, of "Jim Crow" fame, who had dropped little Joseph Jefferson out of a bag when the latter, at the age of four, made his first appearance on the stage. Rice made his first appearance here on July 12, 1847, as Ginger Blue, the Mummy, in "Mummy." The next night Jerry Merrifield, who became a popular comedian here, made his first appearance as Peter Spyke in "The Loan of a Lover." At this time Mrs. Hunt was featured as a stock star, and having a fondness for male roles won much favor in them. On July 28, 1847, she appeared as Claude Melnotte to the Pauline of Mrs. Rice. The

most popular actor seen here in those days was James E. Murdock, who trod the boards of a Chicago stage for the first time on August 2, 1847. The play was "Hamlet." Mrs. Hunt was the Ophelia; Mrs. Rice, the Queen; Mr. Harris, the Ghost; and Mr. Mossop, the Laertes. The next night Mr. Murdock played Romeo to Mrs. Hunt's Juliet. Actors were versatile in those days. On September 11, 1847, Mr. Ryer, the tailor, still an amateur, appeared as Hamlet, "by the advice of his friends." The enthusiasm was so great that one admirer threw him a purse of \$25. The stage in Chicago has undergone many changes. The lamented Julia Dean, gifted, beautiful, and probably the most popular actress of her day, made her début at Rice's on October 5, 1847, as Julia in "The Hunchback." "Her smile was a language of itself; joy and anguish, hope and fear; love and scorn flitted across her young face with the grace of sunbeams and shadows."

James Hubert McVicker made his first appearance in Chicago, Tuesday, May 2, 1848. Mr. McVicker, whose name was then spelt McVicar, made his debut as Mr. Smith in "My Neighbor's Wife." The relations between McVicker and Rice were always of the most cordial character. During the first week in June of 1848, an unusual state of affairs existed in Chicago. Five places of amusement were open at one time: Raymond & Waring's Menagerie was the place to see the elephant; Winter's Diorama, the place to see "Jerusalem and the Court of Babylon"; Rice's Theatre, the place to see acting; Winchell's entertainment, the place to hear good singing; and Tom Thumb was at the Court House, "the place to be kissed", for a girl that had not been kissed by Tom Thumb felt like a spinster who had never had an offer of marriage. And all the notice that Edwin Forrest received from the *Evening Journal*, after he had made his début at Rice's on June 8, 1848, was the following: "A crowded audience were delighted with Mr. Forrest's Othello at the theatre last evening. Mr. Fenno, as Iago, was most superior, and Mrs. Hunt's Desdemona, charming. To-night Mr. Forrest appears again in the character of Hamlet." And an enterprising

citizen who had felt called upon to ask Mr. Forrest "how he liked Chicago", received this answer from the actor who had climbed up and down our sidewalks, "How do I like Chicago? Why the whole ——— place is set for 'Mazeppa.'" And so far as we know, the first actor to step out of the character and make a speech during or after a performance in Chicago was Edwin Forrest, who spoke at the conclusion of his first engagement on Friday evening, June 23, 1848, after playing King Lear for the first time here. Then came "the noblest Roman of them all." Junius Brutus Booth made his first appearance on Friday, September 22, 1848, in "Richard III." On September 1, 1848, Chicago had grown to 19,724 souls, and on November 25, 1848, the second season at Rice's closed. Mrs. Mossop, formerly Mrs. Hunt, distinguishing herself by playing Alfred Evelyn in "Money," and Lucretia Borgia. And still the city was without good sidewalks, roadways, or gas. July 28, 1850, Mr. Rice began an experiment with grand opera, opening with "La Sonnambula," the cast including Eliza Brienti, Miss Matthews, Mr. Manvers, and Mr. Dubreill. The theatre was destroyed by fire July 30, 1850. Loss \$4,000. On February 3, 1851, Mr. Rice opened his second theatre on the same spot, but the entrance had been transferred to Dearborn Street. The new building was of brick and cost \$11,000. Mr. Rice made a notable improvement by abolishing the pit, because of its noisy occupants, and building a gallery at the top of the house, almost over the stage. The former pit was called the parquet and respectable people were then no longer afraid to see the play. The opening attraction at the new house was a triple bill: "Love in Humble Life," "The Captain of the Watch," and "The Dumb Belle." Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Gilbert were members of the company, the now revered "Dear old Mrs. Gilbert," being then a popular dancer. It was here that John Dillon, "recently graduated from a New York concert saloon," made his first local appearance. In 1861, Rice's Chicago Theatre was converted into a business house.

Meanwhile another theatre was opened. This was North's Amphitheatre, which stood on the south side of Monroe Street.



east of Wells Street. Its manager, Levi J. North, offered a unique entertainment, inasmuch as the drama was preceded by a circus, the stage being built on wheels and run over the circus ring. It was afterward known as the National Theatre and existed until 1864.

Thursday evening, November 5, 1857, McVicker's Theatre was opened. The stock company was large and representative and appeared in "The Honeymoon" and "The Rough Diamond." H. A. Perry, who appeared as the Duke Aranza, was an admired actor of his day. Edwin Booth's first appearance was made here May 31, 1858, appearing in "A New Way to Pay Old Debts," followed by "Richelieu," John Howard Payne's "Brutus" and "Richard III." All the great actors of that period played at McVicker's, Edward A. Sothorn making his début in 1861, James H. Hackett, the great Falstaff of that day, in 1865, and Mrs. Mary F. Scott-Siddons in 1869. The theatre was remodeled in 1864, and in 1868 Joseph Jefferson produced "Rip Van Winkle" for the first time here. The theatre was rebuilt in 1871, at a cost of \$90,000, and re-opened with "Extremes" six weeks before the great fire of October 9, 1871, when it was burned with the rest of Chicago. Again the theatre was rebuilt, and re-opened August 15, 1872, with Douglas Jerrold's "Time Works Wonders." In 1885 the theatre was again remodeled. On August 26, 1890, during a run of "Shenandoah," it was again destroyed by fire. It rose from its ashes on March 31, 1892, Joseph Jefferson, William J. Florence, Mrs. John Drew, Miss Viola Allen, and Frederick Paulding appearing in "The Rivals." After Mr. McVicker died on March 7, 1896, the theatre was conducted by Mrs. McVicker, who, on May 1, 1898, leased it for a term of years to Jacob Litt, who, in 1902, purchased the entire property from Mrs. McVicker. It was something of a coincidence that Mrs. McVicker leased the theatre to Mr. Litt just fifty years minus a day after the date of her husband's professional début in Chicago. The story of McVicker's Theatre would fill many a volume. All the great actors of the day appeared here for a period of forty years, most of the great names of the dramatic

and musical professions having brightened the history of this house. Not only the famous stars, but many of the best known stock actors won favor here, for during the greater portion of Mr. McVicker's career the great stars were supported by the stock company of the house. And on many occasions the inimitable Mr. McVicker would himself appear either at the head of his own company or in the support of eminent stars like Charlotte Cushman or Edwin Booth. His most memorable performances were those of Mr. Simpson to the Mrs. Simpson of Charlotte Cushman in "Simpson & Co.," and of the First Grave Digger in "Hamlet," Dogberry in "Much Ado About Nothing," Bottom in "Midsummer's Night," and Launcelot Gobbo in "The Merchant of Venice," when Edwin Booth was the star. These five rôles were distinctively his own. Mr. McVicker was a comedian and a manager in the true sense of the word, and as a citizen of Chicago he was so popular and so public-spirited that his memory will never be dimmed by time.

Still another famous playhouse was Colonel Wood's Museum at 111-117 Randolph Street, which was opened with a number of curiosities August 17, 1863, and in November, 1863, converted into a playhouse, when "The Bohemian Girl" was given by the Holman Opera Company. "The Lady of Lyons" was the first play given, and for some time eminent players of this day, such as Frank E. Aiken, McKee Rankin, William J. LeMoynes, and Owen Fawcett, were admired members of the stock company, which was so popular that before the fire, when long runs were unknown, "The Ticket of Leave Man" was played consecutively for six weeks.

And all Chicago remembers Crosby's Opera House, which stood on the north side of Washington Street, between Dearborn and State Streets, and opened with "Il Trovatore," April 26, 1865, at a cost of \$500,000, by J. Grau's Italian Opera Company. Miss Clara Louise Kellogg, now Mrs. Carl Strakosch, was a member of the company. Here the great spectacular plays of the day, "The Black Crook," "The White Fawn," and "The Field of the Cloth of Gold" were given, as

well as all the great operas and German dramas, for here Fanny Janauschek and Marie Seebach played the tragedies of Schiller and Goethe. And on this stage the citizens of Chicago presented a silver wreath to Madame Janauschek, Dr. Ernst Schmidt being the spokesman of the occasion. And now the great tragedian is practically dying in want. Like the other playhouses, Crosby's Opera House, which was to be re-dedicated by the Theodore Thomas Orchestra, Marie Krebs, pianist, and Bernhard Listemann, violinist, on Monday, October 9, 1871, was burned to the ground that morning, the orchestra reaching Twenty-second Street on its way from the East. At the time it was said that Theodore Thomas differed from Nero inasmuch as he roamed away while his fiddles were burning.

No less than three theatres were named after Frank E. Aiken, Chicago's popular leading man of that day. For a time Wood's Museum was known as Aiken's Theatre, after Col. J. H. Wood retired. Another Aiken's Theatre was built on the east side of Dearborn Street, one block south of the spot where Rice's Chicago Theatre had stood. It was opened January, 1869, by a stock company playing "Cyril's Success." In August, 1869, it was transformed into the Dearborn Theatre and occupied by Emerson. Allen & Manning's Minstrels and other attractions, such as Charles Wyndham in the Robertson comedies. Still another Aiken's Theatre was erected at the northwest corner of Wabash Avenue and Congress Street, and opened October 7, 1872, by the Theodore Thomas Orchestra. Here Anton Rubinstein and Wienawski gave their memorable concerts. Here Lawrence Barrett produced "Julius Cæsar," and while playing Cassius stepped out of the role to speak Marc Antony's oration, Frank Lawler being the Marc Antony. The theatre was burned in the second Chicago fire of July 14, 1874. Meanwhile other places of amusement were opened. They included Bryan Hall, at 87 and 89 Clark Street, built in 1860 for concerts; the first Academy of Music, at 124 Washington Street, opened December 1, 1863, and devoted to Arlington, Kelly, Leon & Donnikers Minstrels, and later to English

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#### A FEW OF THE LEADING THEATRES FURNISHED BY US:

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TORONTO, TORONTO; PROSPECT, CLEVELAND; ACADEMY, BUFFALO.





opera by the late Sher Campbell and the present William Castle; the first Olympic Theatre, at the northwest corner of Clark and Monroe Streets, opened July 15, 1868, by Arlington's Minstrels, and the Globe Theatre on Desplaines Street, between Madison and Washington Streets, opened November 21, 1870, by a stock company playing "The Rivals." The last named was the only theatre that escaped the fire.

After the great fire the walls of the old Postoffice at Dearborn and Monroe Streets were utilized as the framework of a theatre that was opened January 11, 1875, with a burlesque under Leonard Grover's management. J. H. Haverly reconstructed it in 1878, and called it Haverly's Theatre, opening it with the Colville Folly Company in "The Babes in the Woods." It was used as a theatre until 1880, when it was demolished. It was here, on April 1, 1875, that Will J. Davis, who had been associated with W. W. Cole of Grover & Cole, first came into view professionally, as J. H. Haverly's trusted lieutenant, Mr. Davis growing to be the dean among local managers. During 1877 and 1878, Mr. Davis was not associated with this house, but he returned in 1879, and every faithful Chicagoan is grateful to him for his share of the prosperity of this house that first introduced us to such distinct and lasting successes as the Chicago Church Choir Company, Her Majesty's Italian Opera Company, the Carleton Opera Company, and the Chicago Ideals.

A great and good man to whom Chicago is indebted for much was the late Richard M. Hooley, familiarly and reverently called "Uncle Dick Hooley." Mr. Hooley came here from Brooklyn in 1870, and transformed Bryan Hall into a handsome theatre called Hooley's Opera House. It was opened January 2, 1871, by Hooley's Minstrels, and when it was destroyed in the great fire Mrs. F. W. Lander (Jean Davenport) was to appear in an English version of Giacometti's "Elizabeth." For a while Mr. Hooley had a stock company in conjunction with Frank E. Aiken, with Mr. Aiken as leading man, the first play being "The Two Thorns." After the fire the theatre was rebuilt, and after being called the Coliseum

and Hamlin's Theatre, was remodeled in 1880, and called the Grand Opera House, and leased to John A. Hamlin. It was opened September, 1880, by Hoey & Hardy in "A Child of the State." Mr. Will J. Davis was acting manager of the Grand Opera House at this time and remained there two years, giving the house its legitimate start. After the great fire Mr. Hooley built Hooley's Theatre on Randolph Street, east of La Salle, and opened it October 17, 1872, with the Abbott-Kiralfy Company. In 1876 and 1877 it was known as Haverly's, and then restored to Mr. Hooley and his partner, Simon Quinlan. Later Mr. Hooley became its exclusive manager and remained so until his death in September, 1893. Here for some years Mr. Hooley had an exceptional stock company that included at different times such well-known players as James O'Neill, William H. Crane, Harry Murdock, John Webster, John Dillon, George Ryer, George Giddens, Nate Salsbury, Louise Hawthorne, Minnie Doyle, Nellie McHenry, Sidney Cowell, Susan Denin, and last, but not least, the famous Mrs. Clara Fisher Maeder. May 1, 1898, the theatre passed from the control of the Hooley estate into the hands of Harry J. Powers, who had been associated with the house since October 15, 1877, when the attraction was Jarrett & Palmer's "Sardanapalus," and who gave it the name of Powers' Theatre, although the favorite name of "The Parlor Home of Comedy" still clings to it. After a complete reconstruction based on designs by Benjamin H. Marshall, who afterward became the architect of the Illinois and Iroquois theatres, it was opened as Powers' Theatre, August 22, 1898, with Effie Shannon and Herbert Kelcey in Clyde Fitch's, "The Moth and the Flame." For thirty-one years this playhouse has made theatrical history. Most of the eminent players and singers of the generation have appeared upon its boards, and here many of our younger actors have made their local débuts as stars. Here, since Mr. Powers first became connected with the house, we have seen Lawrence Barrett, Clara Morris, Robson and Crane, Fanny Janauschek, Fanny Davenport, Helena Modjeska, E. A. Sothorn, John T. Raymond, John McCullough, Nat C. Good-

win, Emma Abbott, Clara Louise Kellogg, George S. Knight, Lotta, E. H. Sothern, Mrs. Scott-Siddons, Maggie Mitchell, Genevieve Ward, Roland Reed, Minnie Maddern, Annie Pixley, Henry E. Dixey, Rosina Vokes, Mr. and Mrs. Kendall, Margaret Mather, E. S. Willard, Eleonora Duse, Ada Rehan, Olga Nethersole, William Gillette, John Hare, John Drew, Sol Smith Russell, Julia Arthur, Julia Marlowe, Maude Adams, Sir Henry Irving, Ellen Terry, and a host of others, many of whom have passed into the Great Hereafter. No wonder then that to old and young this playhouse, which has ever maintained the highest standard, is indeed a "Home."

John B. Carson built a theatre on Monroe Street, between Dearborn and Clark, and called it Haverly's. It was opened Monday, September 12, 1881, by Robson and Crane with "Twelfth Night." It was managed by J. H. Haverly and afterward by C. H. McConnell, during whose regime Mr. Will J. Davis was his acting manager. On the last night of the second engagement of Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, Saturday, January 31, 1885, Ellen Terry christened the house the Columbia Theatre. In 1889 Mr. Carson offered his house out of hand to Mr. Will J. Davis, who associated himself with Mr. Al Hayman, then of San Francisco in a ten year lease of the theatre, and on Friday afternoon, March 30, 1900, during an engagement of the Rogers Brothers, it was destroyed by fire.

Other theatres built from time to time were:

Myers' Opera House, on Monroe Street, between State and Dearborn Streets: Samuel Myers, manager; opened September 23, 1872.

The Standard, afterward the Bijou, at the corner of Jackson and Halsted Streets; built by a Mr. Townsend of this city, opened by Fay Templeton in "Girofle-Girofla" December 31, 1883.

Chicago Opera House, at the corner of Washington and Clark Streets; opened by John W. Norton & Co., with David Henderson as manager, August 18, 1885, with Thomas W. Keene in "Richard III."

The new Chicago Theatre, now the Olympic Theatre, on Clark Street, between Lake and Randolph; opened by



James H. McVicker in August, 1875, with "Apple Blossoms." Called the Olympic, in May, 1885.

Hopkins' Theatre, on State Street near Harrison, was opened by Robert Graham in "Wanted a Partner," October 1, 1884.

The Windsor Theatre, later the Lincoln, on North Clark Street, near Division, was opened September 16, 1886.

The Haymarket Theatre on West Madison Street, near Halsted, was dedicated by Thomas Keene in "Richard III" December 24, 1887, under the management of Mr. Will J. Davis. Thomas W. Keene had the distinction of opening two Chicago playhouses with the same play.

Baker's Theatre, afterward Havlin's, and now the Columbus, was opened with "The Pearl of Pekin" November 6, 1888, and leased to J. H. Havlin May 27, 1889.

The Clark Street Theatre, on North Clark and Michigan Streets; opened by H. R. Jacobs, with "Said Pasha," October 27, 1889.

The Alhambra, on State and Nineteenth Streets, was opened by the Emma Juch Grand English Opera Company in "Faust," September 1, 1890.

The Schiller Theatre, later the Dearborn and now the Garrick, was opened in September, 1892, with four weeks of German comedy, and dedicated to the English drama with "Gloriana," October 17, 1892.

The Great Northern Theatre, A. M. Palmer, manager, was opened by Henry Miller in "Heartsease," November 9, 1896.

The Auditorium was dedicated by President Harrison and Adelina Patti, Monday, December 9, 1889. Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet" was given the next night with Mme. Patti as Juliet.

The Studebaker, on Michigan Boulevard, between Van Buren and Congress Streets, was opened with a concert September 29, 1898, and was first used as an opera house by the Castle Square Company in "Faust," Monday, April 3, 1899.

The opening of the Illinois Theatre, on Jackson Boulevard, Monday evening, October 15, 1900, with Julia Marlowe in Clyde Fitch's "Barbara Frietchie" marked a new era, inasmuch as it was the first time in the history of Chicago that a playhouse

was constructed and employed solely for theatrical purposes. There are several older houses in New York, Philadelphia, and Savannah, Ga., that are similarly built and used, but they are the important exceptions to an almost unanimous rule. It was built by the Hayman & Davis Co., with Mr. Will J. Davis as manager. While it was being built all sorts of names were suggested, Mr. Davis making a plea for a name that would be symbolical of the city's history. Finally Charles Frohman said: "Why not call it the Illinois?" And Illinois it became, and worthily so, as something of a rebuke to the naming of theatres either after individuals or in imitation of some English name to which its birth and career are wholly foreign. And so, to-day, the Illinois Theatre, after a career of a little over three years, typifies all that is most beautiful and good in the modern theatre. Like the first playhouse Chicago ever had, its name is Indian. It is also noteworthy that the architect of the Illinois is probably the youngest man who ever designed a theatre, for Benjamin H. Marshall was barely twenty-six years of age when the Illinois became a reality.

When the new playhouse that is now being dedicated was first planned, Mr. Will J. Davis was ready with a name for it, a name that would be a tribute to the first inhabitants of this continent. Mr. Davis' devotion to the history of the Indians has been constant, and he was deeply impressed by the fact that in early days they were led by the Iroquois, composed of the Five Nations, afterward the Six Nations, for the Senecas, Mohawks, Onondagas, Oneidas, and Cayugas were, in 1717, joined by the Tuscaroras. So this theatre, designed to be a leader, was named the Iroquois. And it is interesting to note that it was on the anniversary of the nation's birth that Mr. Marshall prepared the first designs for the new house, namely, on July 4, 1902. Our first inhabitants can not be forgotten, when, in our search for wholesome amusement and instruction, we remember that our first and latest playhouses were called respectively Sauganash and Iroquois.



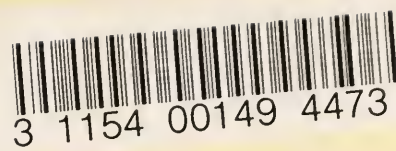






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